THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 11 December 1997

Rage, resignations and rebellion: Blair breaks his party's heart

Tears, rage, rebellion and a ministerial resignation last night greeted Tony Blair's decision to drive his own MPs into the Commons lobbies with Tories like Michael Howard and John Redwood to cut the benefits of Ione parents. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on the agony underlying last night's big government majority.

Taunts by William Hague, the protest resignation of a Scottish Office minister, and this is wrong because it is wrong to remove a defiant revolt by some ministerial aides and backbench MPs could not eclipse the heart-breaking agony of many Labour MPs as they backed the Government in the Commons last night.

One long-standing Labour backbencher, wbo was intending to vote for the Government, told The Independent: "I am tonight ... it makes me weep." He then ernment out of loyalty. stopped dead and went silent on the telephone. He was crying.

"Because I am wrong." In that case, why was be planning to back the Government? "Because I have spent the last 17 years trying to get rid of the Conservatives. I can't of all. This is the dispossessed that we are bring myself not to vote for them ... "He talking about, It is a disaster." broke down again, and put the phone down.

overwhelming Labour-Tory alliance majority to cut benefits for new lone-parent claimants from April, by between £4.95 to badly damaged by the clash between ideals without principles or values." and practice. The Blair boneymoon end-

a Labour government, the first Labour government for 18 years, would actually take guably, we should be increasing benefit for."

planning to vote against the Government -oo pain of dismissal. "As a buman being." she said. "I bave absolutely no choice, I am 60 years old, I've spent 40-odd years in the Labour Party, working at every level, and never, never did I think I would be asked to take money away from the poorest people in the country. It's about our values." She added "It's almost like a bereavement."

But while many MPs were distressed by the Government decision to force them into last night's vote, others were enraged. One

new woman MP said she would be voting "with a beavy heart", but she added: "This is a decisioo badly made."

While there was common Labour backbench agreement that something has to be done to break the cycle of benefits and dependency, belping people from welfare and into work, the common view was that the cut for lone parents was being taken much

Another new woman MP who was voting for her government said: "I am furious; I am so angry about it because it bas been so badly managed. I am a loyalist; I don't believe I was elected on a platform of dissent. At the same time, bowever, I feel that benefit before there is anything in its place. That is a management question, and exactly the wrong thing to get macbo over, as they have done. I'm angry because it is unnecessary."

One backbench man said be was appalled and outraged, and be warned that there would be casualties among lone-parvery angry in myself with what I am doing ent families. Yet was voting for his gov-

"It is not a question of cowardice," be said. "It is simply that I refuse to believe Asked why he had broken down, he said: that I have to vote against a Labour government. They have no right to put us tbrough this. This is not the way to do it. We are hitting the most deprived people

But in Commons questions earlier, the The Government was guaranteed an Prime Minister stood his ground against an onslaught from the Conservative leader. Mr Hague said Labour MPs would be "dragged through the lobbies to vote for a measure £10.25 a week, compared with current they called shameful, malign and completely claimants. But the spirit of New Labour was wrong. It is another example of government

The Tory leader, whose own party was voting with the Government, in support of Alice Mahon, a ministerial aide to a measure that was first proposed by the Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Conservative government, asked Mr Blair: Media and Sport, and therefore subject to "Isn't it the case of us having the courage frootbeoch discipline, told a press confer- of our convictions, one resigned minister ence: "Never in a million years, wheo I was baving the courage of his coovictions and fighting the May election, did I believe that the Labour Party in general having oeither courage oor coovictioo?"

Mr Blair told the House: "There are difthis punitive approach to people wbo, ar- ferent priorities, but we believe the most important thing is to belp those lone par-Afterwards, she explained why she was ents off benefits and into work and do so in a way that doesn't lose cootrol of public finances."

> Mr Hague repeatedly asked Mr Blair wby be had not warned the voters of Labour's plans before the election. The Prime Minister said it was incorrect to say Labour had not spoken of its proposals. He said: "I have the comments we made before the election when we said we will stick with the existing budget but we can offer better and different ways of getting lone parents back into work."



Spoils of war: The issue of lone parents wrecked the unity of the Labour backbenches last night, as MPs wrestled with their consciences

INSIDE TODAY

Robbie **Coltrane** on the magic of motors THE EYE



Computer rage is the new disease **18/FEATURES**



Driven out of her job for being **female** 3/NEWS

Governesses: The answer to a parent's prayer? EDUCATION+

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TODAY'S NEWS

EU wants to ban lamb on the bone

Many of the most popular cuts of lamb could be banned after European scientists called for tough restrictions on the sale of lamb. They recommended a ban of sales of certain types of lamb on the bone from animals over six months old in countries where there is a risk from BSE. All EU countries should ban the cuts from animals over 12 months.

The bulk of UK lamb sales involves animals aged six to 12 months with only a tiny market for "new season" lambs under six months old. Around 90 per cent of British lamb is sold on the bone. If the ban is Introduced it would prevent the sale of cuts such as rack of lamb, and lamb chops, although not leg of lamb.

If the Government acts on the recommendation, which is similar to that made last week by British scientists over beef on the bone, it would mean a dramatic reduction in the amount of lamb being sold. But jack Cunningham, the Secretary of State for Agriculture, last night ruled out any hasty response and said he would stick to advice given by SEAC last week that no further controls were needed on sheep and meat. Page 4

TV licence fee to RUC Catholics rise over inflation suffer harassment

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, will today confirm an inflationbusting increase in the BBC's annual licence fee for next year. Viewers will have to pay £97.50 next year for a colour television licence, an increase of £6 (6.6 per cent) on this year - in line with the Conservative Government's five year licence formula unveiled last year. After 1998, there will be one further above-inflation increase, before the fee dips below infla-

tion in 2000 and 2001. Page 22

Confidential Royal Ulster Constabulary research, obtained exclusively by The Independent, reveals that at least 30 per cent of Catholic officers have experienced religious discrimination or harassment from colleagues or superior officers. The unpublished internal report will dismay the authorities at a time when the Government and the RUC itself are anxious to recruit more Catholics into the ranks. The report is hased on the most extensive survey conducted by the force. Page 3

All that Kyoto heat, for next to nothing

last minute negotiations. an agreement on a new treaty to combat global warming hung in the balance. But the longsought agreement will do little to slow down the heating of the planet, predict Nicholas Schoon and Richard Lloyd Parry in Kyoto.

After a night of agonising

Delegations from 160 countries were struggling to reach agreement on a treaty to tackle the threat of catastrophic climate change. With hours to go before delegates were due to fly home from Japan, the UN environment conference was deadlocked in some of the most complex international negotiations ever undertakeo

The Kyoto Protocol is iniended to be the first concerted, legally binding attempt to tackle the dangers of global warming caused by humanity's fast rising emissions of heat trapping gases.

But the compromises required to bring together goverruments as diverse as the cause the fast-growing pollution United States, China and Mid- from developing countries luters aiming to burn fossil dle East oil producers, have dis-

appointed environmentalists, cuts by the rich ones. That vulnerable island nations, and the European Union. All three wanted to go further and faster in cutting emissions than Europe's main trading rivals. Japan and the US.

With many of the details of

its implementation unresolved. the Kyoto conference amounts to little more than an opening declaration of war against globseveral nights of intensive. against-the-clock negotiations. the developed countries including Russia and those of Eastern Europe were expected to cut their annual emissions of six key greenhouse gases by 6 per cent by 2012, compared to their 1990 level.

But bours after the conference's scheduled close, delegates from 150 nations were still arguing through the night over most of the same issues which have divided them over the last 10 days.

The latest draft of the protocol made an indecisive start on reducing the risk of dangerous swings in climate and rises in sea level. It would not actually stop emissions rising bewould outweigh the modest

means the build-up of greenbouse gases would continue to accelerate - and so would climate change. But the hope was that a similar treaty for developing nations could be negotiated in the next few years.

After beginning the conference poles apart, Europe and the US managed to agree late yesterday on a similar target for al warming. After 10 days and cutting emissions of some 6 per cent. But the European Union was still trying to close potential loopholes which it feared could drastically reduce the cuts America had to make. And the developing nations principally China and the oilproducing Arab States - balked at an American demand that they commit to reducing their own emissions.

A burst of telephone diplomacy between heads of government, including Tony Blair, Bill Clinton, the Japanese prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto. failed to end the wrangling.

But the proposed treaty would mark the birth of a new global trading commodity emissions licenses, which will be sold by countries with low emissions and bought by heavy pol-

COLUMN ONE

Blue movie-makers descend to Level 3

They were the kind of scenes one can safely say were denied viewers of Airport, television's fly-on-the-wall documentary series. A bunch of builders and staff at Heathrow airport could scarcely believe their eyes when they came across a blonde porn star laid semi-naked across a car bonnet in one of the airport car parks.

On top of Georgette Neale on a chilly November afternoon was fellow performer was Vincent Curran. Lookouts were keeping guard.

"The Crown say it would outrage anybody of moral decency," Isleworth Crown Court heard yesterday. Justin Bearman, prosecuting, said the activities on Level 3 of the Terminal 4 car park (sbort-stay) were "lewd, obscene and disgusting". The scenes only came to an end when the blue movie-makers were finally interrupted by car park staff, it was alleged.

Kareen Sulaiman told how he was in the car park as a "courtesy patroller" when he stumbled upon the film-makers. "I saw a leg of a young girl lying down on the bonnet of a big silver Vauxhall car ... there was a man between her legs. Another man was filming them and two others were roaming around to signal whenever anyone was coming in that direction." He said that as soon as the lookouts spotted him approaching, they warned the others and 23-year-old Ms Neale and Mr Curran, 35, stopped what they were doing.

As the woman, whom he described as young with bleached-blonde shoulder-length hair, "slid" off the bonnet to do up her long dark coat, the man moved away and zipped up his flies. But that was far from the end of it. Mr Sulaiman claimed. He went away to alert his manager and by the time they returned, the couple seemed to be at it again.

The manager went to have a word with the film-makers while Mr Sulaiman asked the car park receptionist to ring the police, "I felt upset about what I saw. It was immoral and outrageous." he said,

As the film-makers drove off, they attempted to destroy the videotape. But police who blocked their getaway on one of the car park's slip roads managed to retrieve it. The four-woman and eight-man jury arc to view what police experts were able to restore of the allegedly steamy scenes.

Mr Bearman said Mr Wright insisted they had only been filming buildings. Ms Neale initially claimed sexual activity had not taken place and she "would not get involved in anything like that".

But when confronted with the restored video, she told police she could not deny involvement but that the activity had not taken place in the car park. Georgette Neale, of Waltham Abhey, Essex, and Vincent Curran, of Kingsheath, Northampton, each deny two charges of outraging public decency. Each count concerns a separate sexual act. Cameraman Duncan Wright, 50, of Radford, Coventry, and James Wright, aged 20 and no relation, of Wigston, Leicestershire, each plead not guilty to two charges of aiding and abetting an indictable offence.

The trial continues. - Louise Jury

PEOPLE



Calling the tune: Imelda Marcos sings carols with employees of the Philippines' House of Photograph: AFP Representatives yesterday. Earlier, she handed out sacks of rice as gifts

'Statesman' editor stays mum on proprietor

Will Ian Hargreaves, editor of the New Statesman. dare to give the magazine's sugar daddy, multi-millionaire Geoffrey Rohinson MP, a dressing down in print for his controversial offshore financial dealings? The question was in the air last night at the Staggers' Christmas Party.

The NS - whose latest slogan is "What's Going on" - has said next to nothing about the Paymaster General's financial interests in Guernsey. It sought to laugh off the embarrassment in its last issue with a humorous reference to the Robinson affair in its satirical 'Journal of Lynton Charles MP'.

Mr Hargreaves, formerly editor of The Independent, was planning yesterday to tackle this thorny subject in his next editorial, but he declined to disclose his views before the magazine hits the central London news-stands today, "I don't contest the view that the subject of how individual ministers and politicians behave compared to their party's policies is a

subject of importance ... but Geoffrey Robinson has been an absolutely exemplary owner who has given editorial freedom to the staff of this magazine, What goes in is entirely a matter for my judgement."

Mr Hargreaves has turned down numerous invitations from radio and TV stations to comment on the controversy. He has been accused of wimpishness by the Daily Mail's diarist - an accusation be shrugs off with waspish contempt. "I didn't notice the Mail covering extensively (its proprietor) Lord Rothermere's decision to cross the floor (from the Tories to Labour)."

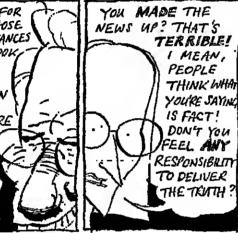
Mr Robinson rescued the New Statesman from the brink of hankruptey and handed over controlto a "hlind trust" when he became a member of the Government. According to Mr Hargreaves, he has expressed no comment as the NS has grown increasingly critical of Labour in recent weeks.

-- Rob Brown, Media Editor

7.30 FOR 8

ZITS







by Chris Priestley

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman





Christian Slater jailed for drug assault

Christian Slater, the actor famous for his film roles in Broken Arrow, Interview with the Compire and Kevin Cosmer's Robin Hood - Prince of Thieres, was yesterday sentenced to three months in prison for assaulting his girlfriend and a police officer while under the influence of cognine.

Slater, 29 was arrested in August after police were: called to a fight at a late-night party in Los Angc... les. According to officers. Slater was found swinging his arms and yelling incoherently. He became involved in a fight after a man attempted to stop him from punching his girlfriend. Michelle Jonas.

The judge in a Los Angeles ouurt issued protective orders for both Michelle Jonas and Julio Flores, the policeman who Slater kicked down a flight of stairs after responding to the emergency call.

Slater's lawyer, Michael Nasatir, said that Slater's willingness to plead no contest - which under California law is the equivalent of a guilty plea - was evidence of "Christian Slater taking responsibility for his actions." Slater has previously been in jail after a drink-

driving conviction eight years ago, and in 1994 he was arrested at JohnF Kennedy airport in New York with a handgun, although it was not loaded. Yesterday's sentence came only hours after fel-

low actor Robert Downey Jr was jailed for six months on drugs and firearms charges.

— Margaret Rogerson

Shares & Unit Trusts

Because of production difficulties, early editions of today's paper carry figures at close of husiness on Tuesday, 9 December.

GRRRASP THE MOMENT GRRRAHAM'S **PORT** THE PORT OF AUTHORITY

UPDATE

Flu and cold deaths up last winter

Almost a third more people died last winter than in previous winters as a result of low temperatures, colds and flu. Figures published by the Office of National Statistics in Population Trends, show that there were 49,000 extra deaths last winter, compared with the rest of the year - 29 per cent more than the 31,000 extra deaths during the previous three winters.

Most of the deaths were among people over 75, and in almost half respiratory illness was the main cause of death. Yet there was no more flu than in previous winters. Dr Douglas Fleming, director of the Royal College of GPs flu monitoring unit said the timing of last year's flu outbreak - in January when colds are at their worst and temperatures lowest - accounted for the worse mortality. "Last year's virus was one to which the elderly had poor resistance. It hit them rather badly."

The report also shows that the UK is set to be overtaken by France as the European Union's second-higgest member. Although UK population is predicted to grow from 58.5 million to more than 61 million over the next 3tt years, a lower death-rate across the Channel means that there will be more French than Britons by ahout 2005.

— Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

SOCIETY

Young find community work uncool

Young people are being deterred from helping in the community because it is not a trendy thing to do. according to a new report. Teenagers and people in their early 20s said they were put off from volunteering by the "stigma" attached to it.

Tom Watson, 17, from London, said, "More young people would volunteer it they knew about it and it was a cool thing to do. But at the moment my friends just think that everyone who volunteers is a do-gooder.

The research was carried out by the charity Community Service Volunteers (CSV) who are backing the Government's Millennium Volunteers initiative which aims to encourage more young people into doing community service. CSV found that young people aged 16 to 25 wanted recognition in the form of a certificate or award for their work but not financial remoneration. However, they did want proper contracts and adequate training.

Elisabeth Hoodless, CSV's director, said: "The Government has placed volunteering high on the agenda with initiatives such as Millennium Volunteers... For these to succeed, we must transform volunteering to make it as attractive to young people as Nike trainers."



EDUCATION

Britain climbs university league

British higher education is a big success compared with that in most developed countries, according to an authoritative international survey published yesterday. But we are still trailing in literacy and maths and in the ritinber of children who stay in education after the age of 16.

Universities in the UK have expanded dramatically during the las but the increase has been achieved without a high drop-out rate.

Figures covering 29 countries compiled by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development show that the UK comes fourth in the league of those completing degrees, just behind Australia, the US and Canada. Around a third of young Britons now attend university, and the figure

has doubled in a decade. The picture is less rosy for those who leave school at 16 than for univer- Man exe sity students. Three-quarters of young people are still in education at the age

of 17, a big improvement on a decade ago, but still well behind countries such as France. Finland and Sweden where the figure is 90 per cent or more.

Computer timebomb for patients

As many as 1,500 hospital patients could die as a direct result of computer failures in the first weeks of the year 2000, an academic warned yesterday. Computer systems in hospitals across the country will fail because of the "millennium timebomb" problem, causing serious disruption to services, harm to patients, financial losses for trusts and care organisations, and opening up a well of legal action, said Prof Mike Smith of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Prof Smith, an expert in both computing and health issues, said his detailed study of the effects of problem on the health service showed the Gov- in ... ernment was either being "astonishingly complacent" or "showing a total : - " ... misunderstanding" of it.

"The NHS has tried hard to come to terms with the year 2000 problem, but the size and scope of it so massive that it needs vast resourcing to deal with it effectively," said Prof Smith. "The NHS does not have the know-how or the resources to deal with the problem alone. The results of this situation could well be disastrous for many families up and down the country."

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3/NEWS

THE EYE IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

32 pages of film and music

up last winter

ity work uncoal

Mity league

) for patients



Jonathan Pryce is the perfect **Bond villain**



Prodigy, the best panto in town

Plus & pages of Christmas presents



Woman executive wins record damages over sex bias

A senior local-authority manager yesterday won record damages of more than £230,000 after claiming sex discrimination. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, talked to Esther McLaughlin, who believes she was the victim of a sub-culture dominated by men.

Angry officials at the London

Esther McLaughlin, who used to work as a £45,000 a year assistant director of finance, personnel and strategy,

old mother of two daughters. said she was the victim of scribed how her case was treated with "disdain" hy the icise the regime at Southwark rary workers. because a person in her position might look as if she was not capable of performing her joh. She accused "several key officials at director level" of knowingly presiding over her misery, some of whom are same level as her job at South-

Eventually she claimed she

missal and that contentions that it was a legitimate redun-When she was forced to leave the council she felt "shock, selfdoubt, anger and a sense of injustice", hut as hreadwinner had to get on with her life.

She was unemployed for six months after leaving South-"mental hullying" and de- wark in October 1994. Ms McLaughlin now works at British Gas as a contract mancouncil. It was difficult to crit- ager in charge of 600 tempo-

Her award - the highest for sex discrimination not involving a pregnancy - was calculated on the basis that it would take four years before she could secure a post at the

council was prevented from defending its case after failing to disclose documents on the order of the industrial tribunal.

Southwark Council, whose five most senior officials are men. said the judgement had been based upon a "technicality" and that there was " compelling evidence" to show that she was treated as fairly as all other employees affected by the council's restructuring proposals. The shake-up was aimed at releasing more resources for "front-line" services, the state-

Widespread discrimination against Catholics in RUC

Confidential Royal Ulster Constabulary research, obtained exclusively by The Independent, concludes that at least 30 per cent of Catholic officers have experienced religious discrimination or harassment from colleagues or superior officers. David McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent, examines an alarming report.

The striking conclusions of the unpublished internal report will dismay the authorities at a time when the Government and the RUC are anxious to recruit more Catholics into the ranks.

The report, commissioned and carried out by the RUC, is based on what is described as probably the most extensive survey ever conducted within the constabulary. Among its findings are:

at least 29 per cent of all Catholic members had experienced religious harassment from colleagues; at least 12 per cent had experienced

religious discrimination by superiors; • 34 per cent reported being disillu-

sioned with their career; 21 per cent had considered leaving the force due to discrimination or harass-

The document, Force Research Branch - survey of religious and political harassment and discrimination in the RUC, has just reached the hands of senior officers. There are already signs that they will take it se-

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable said last night: "I am determined that religious harassment must be eliminated.

sidered, and we will put in place a range of measures through training, education and supervision to ensure that inappropriate language and behaviour is eliminated."

Each one of the RUC's 12,800 regular and reserve officers was sent a questionnaire. About one-third responded. The report comments that the survey was unpopular with a number of officers, some of whom returned questionnaires uncompleted or ripped up. The survey followed an earlier report which indicated that almost half of female officers had experienced sexual harassment in the force.

In most cases, instances of discrimination were not officially reported by Catholic officers, who explained that they did not want to be victimised or did not believe anything would be done about it.

The report will be seen as giving solid statistical foundation to criticisms that the RUC is in need of urgent reform. One of the advocates of reform, former Northern Ireland Police Authority member Chris Ryder, wrote recently: "RUC canteen culture is still stubbornly male, Protestant, British, Unionist and laddish. The hard-drinking days are gone but there remains a hardcore allegiance to values and practices that compromise the concept of an even-handed, impartial police service."

The report contains a few grains of consolation for the authorities, but not many. On the one hand a majority of both Catholic and Protestant respondents rated the problem of religious harassment as not serious, many concluding that it had become less of a problem. Similarly, more than 40 per cent of Catholic respondents felt discrimination had become less of a problem. Furthermore, half of Catholics believed the force as a whole treated them equally with Protestants, while another 13 per cent thought it treated them better than their The results of this survey will be fully con- Protestant colleagues.

On the other hand more than one-third of Catholic respondents felt harassment remained a serious problem, while only 11 per cent of Catholic respondents, together with 14 per cent of Protestants, considered there was no discrimination in the

Of the Catholic officers who responded to the survey, 280 said they had experienced harassment. This figure represents 63 per cent of Catholic respondents and 29 per cent of the force's Catholic membership.

The report comments: "These results tell us that at least 29 per cent of all 964 Catholics in the RUC, and three per cent of all Protestants, have experienced religious harassment during their careers. These levels could be higher if others who had experienced harassment did not reply to the

The report indicates that some Protestants had also complained of sectarian behaviour by other officers.

According to the report: "The most common form of religious harassment was sectarian jokes, banter or sectarian songs, with 92 per cent of Catholic respondents who had been harassed and 64 per cent of Protestant respondents stating that they had experienced this on one or more occasions.

"Of the less common forms of harassment more Catholics than Protestants reported experiencing mappropriate displays of flags and emblems, displays of sectarian posters, graffiti, circulation of sectarian notes or letters, isolation and non-coopcration.

The report concludes: "At a force level we can be sure that at least 12 per cent of all Catholics in the RUC, and three per cent of all Protestants, have experienced religious discrimination during their careers. The true level of discrimination may be higher than this as non-respondents may also have experienced discrimination."

borough of Southwark yesterday registered their intention to appeal against a historic ruling on sex discrimination.

claimed she was dismissed

simply because she was a was singled out among a numwoman. She told the tribunal ber of male colleagues for disthat when she was appointed to the post in 1992 she was not allowed to undertake jobs on dancy constituted a "sham". her own, was moved from department to department and given other tasks just as she got to grips with a project.

Ms McLaughlin, a 46-year-

injury to her feelings. The In a statement yesterday

ment said. The council insisted that the process affected male and female employees across the council equally. Ms McLaughlin had been involved from an wark. The £234,362 award in- carly stage in shaping and imcluded a substantial amount for plementing the proposals.

Police chief tries to stamp out male culture

A detective was made to resign yesterday and two of his colleagues received hefty fines following "unacceptable behaviour" at a party in a police training centre. Alexandra Williams asks if the first woman Chief Constable is determined to stamp out macho male culture within the police force.

The tough disciplinary action followed a party held at Lancashire police headquarters involving a strippagram dressed

85 a policewoman.

Detective Constable Joseph Scanlan. pleaded guilty to discreditable conduct in a two-day disciplinary hearing. He was ked to resign by the Chief Constable of

Detective Constable Mark Shepherd, 29, was fined £1,000 and a third, Detective Constable Philip Dawson, was fined £500.

Mrs Clare is Britain's first woman chief constable. She was appointed in June 1995 in the wake of the sex discrimination case which Alison Halford, an assistant chief constable, brought against the force but eventually dropped after an agreement on a cash package and pension.

The severity of the penalties imposed on the officers is seen by some as an indication of Mrs Clare attempting to slamp out the male-dominated canteen culture.

Roger Graef, a criminologist, film maker and author of books about the police force and produced the documentary series on the Thames Valley Police, said Mrs

Clare's actions were very positive. "It's very rare for such penalties to result from a hearing. She has sent a signal

Lancashire Pauline Clare. Another officer, within her force that this kind of thing can't be tolerated. Many chief constables feel the same way as Mrs Clare but it's very hard to change this canteen culture."

"This may pave the way for further developments. She'll probably be hated and used as an example as to why we shouldn't have women chief constables but there'll be a lot of officers quietly celebrating tonight," he said.

Mrs Clare heard how officers licked eream and chocolate from the body of a 17-year-old strippagram in a har attached to a police training centre at the Lancashire police headquarters in Hutton.

The incident, attended by more than 60 officers, was filmed by the stripper's minder and subsequently sold to two Sunday newspapers which printed stills. Twenty-two officers from 11 forces were brought before the hearing for their behaviour at the party on 3 February.

ARMANI



Lamb faces the chop in latest meat scare

Public confidence in lamb as well as beef took a hammering yesterday after EU scientists

recommended a Europewide ban on some lamb on the bone. Katherine Butler in Brussels says It could mean the end of sales of certain cuts.

European scientists want tough restrictions on the sale of lamb on the bone, it emerged vesterday. The committee dealt a new blow to the meat industry. reeling from the recent ban of beef on the bone. It recommended a han on sales of lamb on the bone from animals over 12 months old.

But, crucially for the British market, and the 90,000 sheep farmers in the UK, the scientists said that in countries where the incidence of BSE or scrapie in tors highlighted by the scientists

may be appropriate" to han meat on the bone from animals as young as six months. The panel of scientists which

advises Brussels on food safety and which is independent of European governments, said rack of lamb, and lamb chops or cutlets should be hanned. It recommended that a ban on cattle sheep and goat brains and offal, due to come into force throughout the EU early next year, should be extended to cover vertehral column and dorsal root ganglia of all three species. The warning adds to consumer confusion and alarm by raising questions for the first time over the safety of lamb and mutton sold on the bone, particularly from animals older than 12 months old.

European Commission officials will have to conduct thorough research on the risks from lamh but they stressed that fac-

flocks is particularly high, "it would have to be weighed against the consequences of a han, such as the impact on trade, the cost and the problem of disposal of carcasses. "The Commission may decide that a

han would be too drastic when set against the risks, but for the moment we cannot say," said a spokesman. He added that the coming weeks and months would be spent trying to establish a "complete picture" of the risks, taking account of the age. species and geographical origin Either way, the damage to consumer confidence is likely to

be extensive. Scrapie in sheep was not previously helieved to pose a threat to human health but is thought to be much more prevalent in European flocks than governments have officially admitted. Its similarity to BSE prompted the Commission's initial decision to include sheep offal in its crackdown on

BSE scientist was 'censored'

A former government scientist who was one of the first to investigate BSE and identify it in cats claims that his work was "censored" by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff), which prevented him from publishing work that would have pointed to the disease's emergence in humans.

Iain McGill worked at the Central Veterinary Laboratory 1CVL) with Gerald Wells, the vet who in 1986 first identified mad cow disease", or bovine spongiform encepalopathy (BSE).

He says that attempts by him and Mr Wells to submit a paper about the emergence of BSE in cats in 1990 were censored by officials within Maff, who threatened to invoke the Offisubmitting their work to scientific journals.

I think censorship is the word I would use to describe what happened with that paper," Mr McGill says on tonight's edition of Channel 4's Dispatches programme. They wanted us to take out any references suggesting a causal link between BSE and the new disease in cats."

In May 1990 he and Mr Wells examined a cat which had died in Bristol. Their immediate reaction was that the cat had died from a disease related to ~ or even caused by - BSE. They informed their managers of their suspicions.

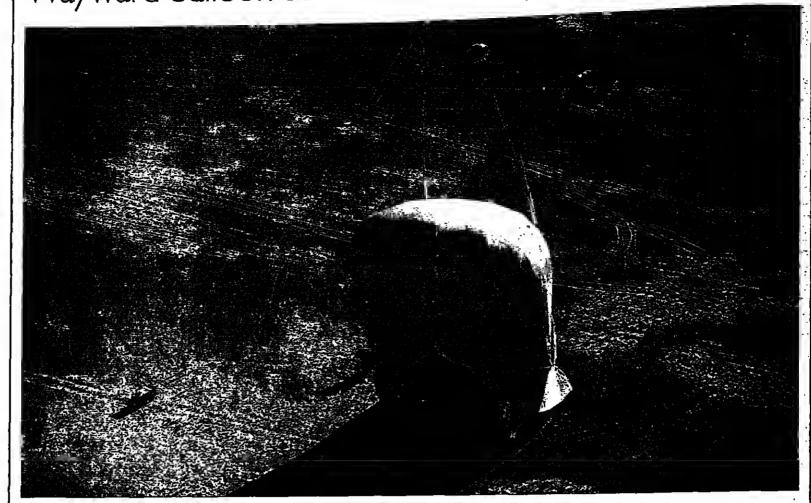
Days later, the chief veteri-

cial Secrets Act to prevent them nary officer, Keith Meldrum, went on TV to discuss the case. But he said the disease was "highly unlikely" to be BSE "because of the precautions that have been taken by various people", though he added he

> what it is" Meldrum would have known about their diagnosis. Did he think Mr Meldrum's reply was scientific thinking? "I think it's Journal of Medical Psychology. wishful thinking.

worked at Maff, "the way it was structurally set up was not that the science would drive the politics, but that the politics will drive the science. And that's

Wayward balloon set for another uplifting experience



Richard Branson's flyaway balloon canopy (above) was yesterday under guard in Algeria - and tied to a tree in case it tried to

Arthur. Last night Mr Branson's co-pilot, Per Lindstrand, was preparing to go there and take it back by aircraft to the airbase escape again, writes Chorles outside Marrakesh, Mo-

new series.

sents...Four men in a Car.

rocco, where it escaped its moorings after a gust broke one of the securing ropes on Tuesday. The team hope to launch a fresh attempt on the non-

C4 recycles its old stars

Channel 4 is going back to its roots in 1998 by re-uniting its

comedy stars of the Eighties in a new Comic Strip Presents

while celebrating the Eighties generation of comedians in a

Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Rik Mayall, Adrian Ed-

The script for the film is still in development with writers

Peter Richardson and Pete Richens, but the outline plot in-

volves four salesmen in a car are travelling to a sales confer-

ence in a car and come across some adventures.

mondson. Nigel Planer and Peter Richardson have been

brought together by the channel in The Comic Strip Pre-

stop ballooning record and particularly to circumnavigate the world at the weekend. 'Hopefully we will be ready by Sunday if the weather

conditions are good and the balloon is not too damaged,' Mr Branson said. Four other teams are aiming for the record. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

could not give a guarantee ... Anorexia links

Mr McGill thinks that Mr Problems with relationships were by far the most common stressful event which preceded the onset of an eating disorder according to findings published in the British

Nearly six out of 10 anorexies had suf-He says that when he fered a severe difficulty which precipitated the onset of the disorder.

Previous studies found that around three quarters of those with eating disorders had suffered severe problems in the previous year compared with around 40 per cent of women as a whole.

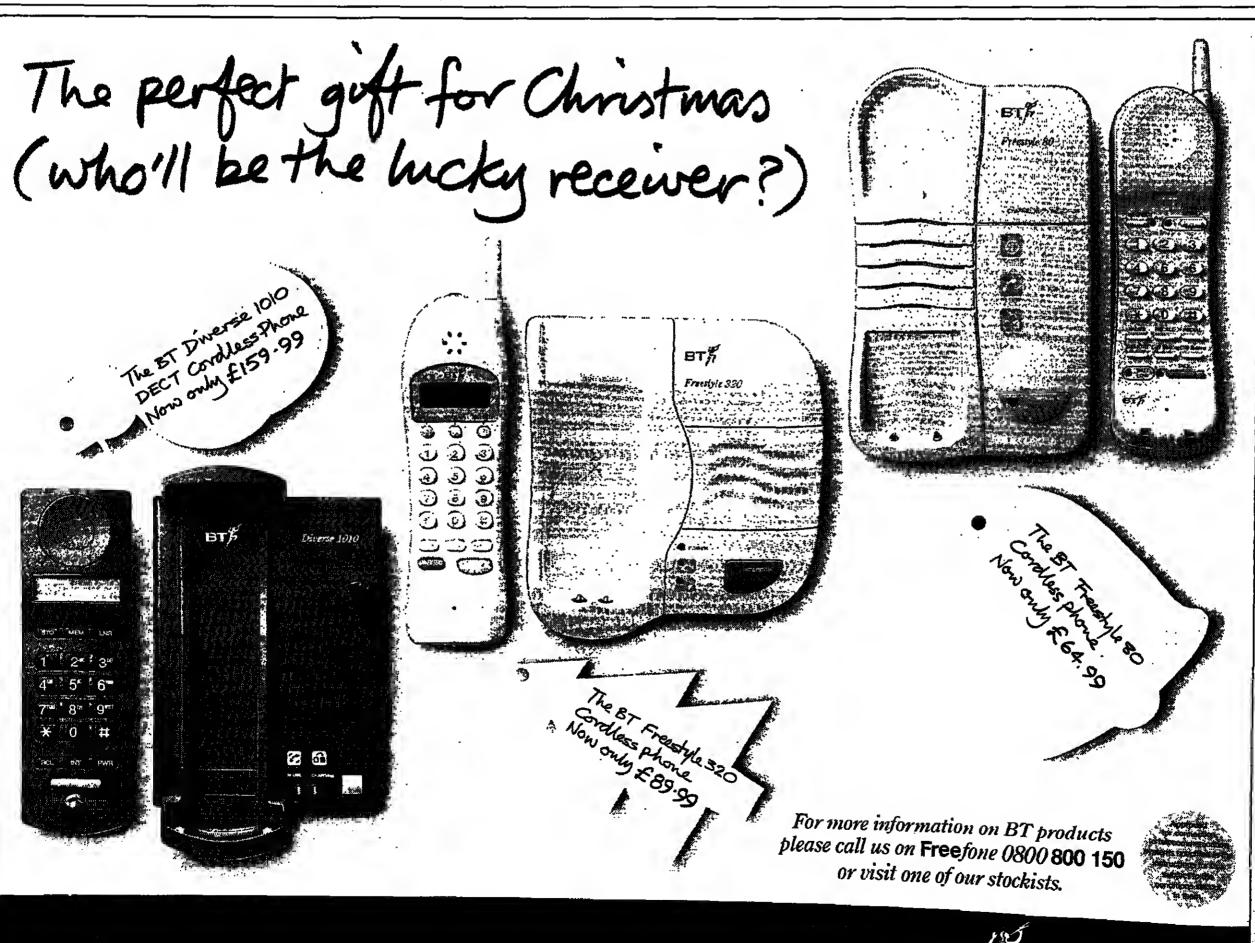
Boy, 14, bailed

A 14-year-old boy sohbed in the dock yesterday after being convicted of attempting to rape a 13-year-old schoolfriend.

The boy was found not guilty of raping the girl on a disused railway line in Wolverhampton. The jury found him guilty of at-

The boy was also convicted on an 11-1 majority verdict of indecently assaulting the girl. He had denied all charges.

He was remanded on bail by Judge Christopher Hodson at Wolverhampton Crown Court for pre-sentence reports.



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5/EDUCATION

Schools told to tackle drug problem

Some schools are still sweeping the issue of drug abuse under the carpet, heads said yesterday.

Yet some five-yearolds now know more about drugs than their teachers, headteachers' leaders warned. Judith Judd, Education Editor, examines the

New advice from a headteachers' association warns schools that they should call in the police when they discover drug incidents but should not search or test pupils for drugs.

The guidelines on drugs, alcohol, tohacco and solvent abuse, the first to be issued by the National Association of Head Teachers for a decade, aim to promote a consistent approach to drug-taking.

Pressure to protect schools' reputation in a competitive market has made some heads reluctant to report drug incidents to the police.

Peter Walker, head of the Abbey School, in Faversham, Kent and a member of the Home Office drug education committee, said: "There are schools which wish to sweep the issue under the carpet but they are just keeping the lid on a problem that will explode."

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said: "No school in the country is a safe haven when it comes to dealing with drugs offences."

The hackground to the new guidelines, say the heads, are changes in society which mean that nne child in two has experimented with drugs by

said: "Many children coming into schools are living in communities where drug abuse is rife. They come in educated about drugs beyond the education of their own teachers. "Children who are involved

io solvent abuse are getting

Primary School, Doncaster,

younget and younger. Seven, eight and nine-year-olds in gangs are abusing solvents." She quoted examples of a nursery school which had to sweep the playground every day for syringes and a school where a six-year-old told a

teacher that she was sent to bed

every night while her parents took heroio downstairs. Mr Walker said that drugtaking started at a very early age. There were 12 solvents such as nail varnish and paint remover in most homes. Only about three or four per cent of drugtaking took place in schools.

The guidelines warn heads that they should not search children suspected of having drugs. Ms Paver said that searching children left teachers open to accusations of assault.

"We are in a position where parents can go to law and we have to be more careful than we used to be. Twenty years, ago I would always have cuddled a crying child. I wouldn't dream of doing it now."

If she suspected a child was concealing drugs, she would send for a responsible adult and ask them to do the searching.

The guidelines also advise against drug testing. Mr Walker said: "I would be worried about creating fear among youngsters, about the expense and about the possibility of encouraging youngsters to move on to harder drugs which were less easily detectable."

drug and alcohol ahuse may be the sign of a child's problems Liz Paver, the association's and should not automatically president and head of Intake exclude them, the guidelines say.

Newcastle gains accolade as sexiest university



Lucky lads: Students enjoying themselves at Newcastle, which allegedly boasts the prettiest females in the UK

Prospective students in search of attractive women should head for Manchester or Newcastle University. Those wanting attractive men will find them at University College. London and Bournemouth. And those who are more interested in brilliant teaching should apply to Manchester, followed by Oxford and Durham.

That, at least, is the view of students who visited the Red Mole student website, in the last three months. More than 2000 students rated their universities on a scale of one to five in categories such as nightlife and accommodation.

Architecture, careers advice, freshers' week, relations with the locals, student union services, sporting and computer facilities were also assessed. Overall, Newcastle University came first, University College, London second Manchester, third.

Two former polytechnics, Mancheser Metropolitan University and Leeds Metropolitan both made it into the top 10. Students at the University of Central England were unhappiest with their lot.

The University of Wales in Cardiff, the students say, has the best places to stay - followed by Durham and Kent. Thames Valley's accommodation was voted the least impressive.

The contest for architecture was won by Durham and Oxford and lost by the universities of Essex and of Central England. Greenwich and the University of the West of England came bottom for attractive females. Nightlife was rated best in Newcastle with Northumbria University top and its nider neighbour. Newcastle, second. Birmingham and Bristol were next but Aberystwyth came

- Judith Judd

Fees fail to bridge universities' growing funding gap

Universities are facing a funding gap of half a billion pounds by the millennium despite the Government's plans to charge students more, MPs say today. Although the report backs £1,000-a-year bills for

Heads should recognise that fees, Fran Abrams writes, it will fuel the campaign against them.

The reforms would be "all pain said the chair of the Commons Education and Employment Select Committee. Margaret Hodge.

Without more resources, student poverty would continue and a cap on student numbers would remain in place, she said.

She supported the Government's decision to impose a £1.000-per-year fee on students and to phase nut maintenance grants.

"But the money will not be sities could take over the runand no gain" in the short term. on stream soon enough. It will not protect provision over the next two years," she said.

The committee heard that £165m extra given to universities for 1998-99 would not help in the longer term. By 1999-2000 an additinnal £565m would be needed, nnly £100m of which could be met through fee pay-

The committee recommended two solutions to the scheme themselves. By establishing a not-for-profit trust and borrowing money on the markets with the Government as a guarantor, they could get good rates of interest and would channel repayments into their own funds. This would free up government expenditure for

other things, including extra funding for universities.

that loan payments to students ning of the student loans could be removed from the ry Steinberg and Joe Benton, arpublic spending totals. Thus, the fact that they would eventually be repaid would be taken into account, and extra money could be freed up. However, this would not create a "pot of gold", the committee said,

The report on Sir Ron Dearing's recommendations on higher education and the Government's response to it led to Second, the Treasury could a split among Labour members problem. First, it said, univer- change its accounting system so of the committee.

Two Labour members, Gergued that the Government had been wrong to introduce tuition fee charges.

An amendment to the report, proposed by Mr Steinberg and backed by Mr Benton as well as by Liberal Democrat and Conservative members, said the charge would deter young people from lower income backgrounds from going to university. It was defeated by the Labour majority on the committee.



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Euthanasia ruled out as use of living wills extended

A Green Paper on how to protect people unable to make crucial decisions for themselves was published yesterday. Suggestions include greater use of living wills and formal powers for relatives or friends - but not euthanasia. Michael Streeter and Fron Abrams look at the issue.

The Lord Chancellor said yeswas "confusing and fragmented" and needed reform. It affeeted not just those unable to make decisions but those rela-

On the day an MP intro- ready recognised by law but the

duced a Bill on doctor-assisted Government is suggesting this dying, Lord Irvine said many of the issues involved in the Green Paper, such as so-called living wills, were controversial and needed careful public consul-

The document, Who Decides?, modelled on a 1985 Law High Court declaration that her Commission report, lays out the categories of people who would be covered by any new laws.

These are: those who have never had "capacity", for example people who grow up with severe learning difficulties; those who have had such capacity reterday that the law on the rights moved, for example by an acciof the mentally incapacitated dent, and those who, when elderly, lose their capacity. Some living wills - called

"advanced statements" - in which people rule out certain tives and friends who cared for treatment in the future, on moral or other grounds, are al-

should be extended.

In particular the wills could be used to specify treatment. Officials describe this as "clarification" after the recent case of Annie Lindsell, a motor-neurone doctor could use drugs to ease her suffering, even though these were likely to hasten her death. She died last week.

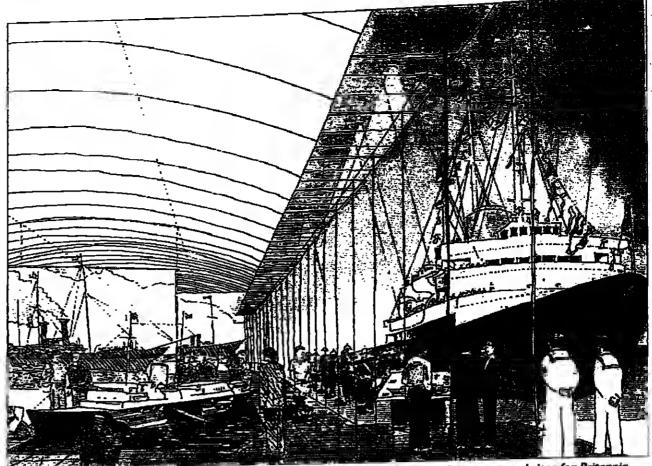
Lord Irvine told the House of Lords that there was no question of doctors being forced to act illegally. "An advance statement could not, for example, ask a doctor deliberately to end life." he said.

He also made it clear that euthanasia - a deliberate act by a third party to shorten someone's life - was not up for consultation and would remain illegal. Another key element is the made a living will, she said.

proposal to extend the existing power of attorney - which deals with financial matters - 10 personal and health care. This new Continuing Power of Attorney could be used by someone who feared they may one disease sufferer who sought a day lose their decision-making capacity to nominate a trusted relative or friend to authorise treatment on their behalf.

The paper also seeks suggestions on defining "incapaeity", and setting up a legal framework to govern day-to-day decisions made by carers.

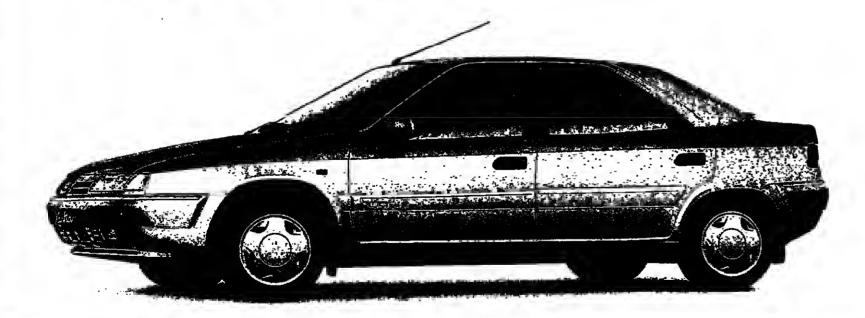
Conservative MP Ann Widdecombe said the measures on living wills and plans to extend the power of attorney to health decisions made her feel "very uncomfortable indeed". It would be wrong if patients in adjoining beds received different treatment because one had



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'Britannia' heading for safe waters

end her days in Edinburgh or on funding in place and firm costthe Manchester Ship Canal, George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, said

Negotiations with the rival consortia will now go ahead to decide which offers the best prospects for preserving the vessel. They will focus in parsure that Britannia's use and appearance are properly safe-

"After 44 years of distinguished service to queen and country, Britannia has a special place in the people's affections," said Mr Robertson.

"This was confirmed by the many thousands who turned out to see her around the country on her final tour and by the interest shown in her preserva-

the Royal Yacht if there were toric Barton swingbridge, close acceptable ways to preserve to a new shopping and her for the wider benefit of the entertainment complex. public", he added, and deproposals as "high quality" and

ery imaginative. He said the proposals from Forth Ports for Edinburgh and Peel Holdings for Manchester Royal Family.

The Royal Yacht Britannia will stood out from all the rest with ed plans for the appropriate preservation and care of the ship.

"We will therefore disappoint some organisations who have worked very hard on their proposals," he said. If the proposal by Forth

Ports were successful, Britannia would be berthed on Edinticular on arrangements to en- hurgh's waterfront at Leith alongside a planned multi-million pound ocean liner terminal designed by Sir Terence Conran.

It would be used for corporate hospitality and state functions with public access at other times. The consortium claims no public money or funds from the National Lottery would be re-

If the Peel Holdings proposal should win, Britannia would be berthed in a 16 acre Heritage site at Trafford Park. It would It would be wrong to scrap be moored adjacent to the his-

Britannia will be decommisscribed the seven preservation sioned at an emotional ceremony in Portsmouth naval base tomorrow attended by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the

Tories' fears over **Euro-sceptic stand**

MPs led by Kenneth Clarke, the would be welcome back in the former Chancellor, are heading for a showdown with the party leadership over growing fears become an Independent sitthat William Hague is adopting ting on the Labour benches an increasingly Euro-sceptic made no move to do so and Mr stance for the Opposition.

The group of Positive European Tory MPs are planning to meet Lord Parkinson, the Conservative Party chairman next Monday to warn against turning the Tories into a narrow Eurosceptic party. They are supported by former ministers including Ian Taylor and David Curry, who both resigned from Mr Hague's front bench in protest at the hardening of policy against the European single currency.

Lord Parkinson is expected to offer them reassurances that they have a place in the party. but they are determined to put down a marker before the Tories begin selecting candidates for the European elections, which they fear will be dominated by Euro-sceptics. There are continued rumours at Westminster that former Eurosceptic MPs Tony Marlow and Nicholas Budgen could be on the lists of candidates.

Their message has been reinforced by a letter to Lord Parkinson from Lord Howe which friends of the former Chancellor have described as 'stinging". Their fears were increased by the departure of Peter Temple Morris, one of the veteran leaders of the group, after having the whip removed

from him by the Yory leadership. John Major, the former Prime Minister, yesterday made an attempt to urge Mr Temple Morris to rejoin the party at a Press Gallery Luncheon in the House of Commons. With the former Tory MP sitting in the

A group of pro-European Tory audience, Mr Major said he party, if he chose to rejoin it.

Mr Temple Morris who has Major's assurances were not backed up by party sources, "We withdrew the whip from him because he was openly talking about joining the Labour Party. We would want guarantees that would not happen again before readmitting him."

Mr Major said the Tory party had to be a right-of-centre party, hut not exclusively rightwing. "We cannot win elections out on the right-wing. That is the way to becoming a minority party of no significance," Mr Major said.

One senior Tory MP said: "We have been keeping our heads down, but the real battle will be over the European elections. If we run a Euro-sceptic campaign, there will be more leaving the party." Mr Major said he was turn-

ing down financial offers to go into the City because he believed there had to be a longer "firebreak" between his term of office as Prime Minister and work outside Parliament than for other former ministers.

-- Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent



7/LONE PARENTS

Blair savaged as angry MPs speak up for the 'betrayed'

The Prime Minister was confronted by Labour backbench anger over the cuts in benefits for lone parents at Question Time. Colin Brown, Chief, Political Correspondent says a string of Labour MPs risked the wrath of the whips in speaking out against the Government.

Diane Abbott led the Labour hackhench attack on the Government's cuts in benefits for lone parents by calling on the Prime Minister at Question Time to justify the cut.

Ms Abbott, a member of the left-wing Campaign Group of Labour MPs, said there would always be mothers who were not able to go out to work, even if the Government's Bill to help lone parents off benefit and into work was 100 per cent successful. As the House fell silent, Mr Blair defended the decision, "I. have to say frankly to you we were elected as a government hecause people believed we would keep tight control of oublic finance and we said that elearly before the election.

What is important is to get as many people as possible off henefit and into work."

Mr Blair also rejected criticism from Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, who said the Treasury could find the money to avoid cutting lone parent henefit by closing tax loopholes allowing offshore trusts, in a gibe at Geoffrey Rohinson, the Treasury minis-

John Townend, Tory leader of the right-wing 92 Group, told Mr Blair: "You say 'put your trust in me'. But your ministers put their trust offshore."

The Prime Minister's words failed to quell the backbench rebellion as Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, faced a sustained attack from her own side. Ken Livingstone said he was voting against the Government regardless of the consequences, because lone parents who were meeting in the Commons felt "beirayed".

Ministers were also attacked by Audrey Wise, the veteran Labour MP for Preston, who led the first Commons motion calling on the Government to think again.

"What we are facing is the abolition of all lone parent premiums, for those who are out of work and those who are at work - and the biggest cut of all for those who are at work on low

I don't see that as a strategy for encouraging people to go to work. I believe the Secretary of State (Ms Harman) was right when she said these are disincentives," said Ms Wise.

HOW CUTS WILL BITE

 The Bill would abolish the higher rate of child benefit for new lone-parent claimants from next April. There are currently about

1.6 million ione parents, with about 2.5 million children. The Government is also

introducing parallel cuts in ncome Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit for all new lone-parent darmants which mean overall benefit cuts for new claimants of between £4.95 to £10.25 a week, compared with current

 It is estimated that there will be a saving to the Treasury, overall, of £60m in the first year, 1998-99, which will rise to £195m in the third

saying, in answer to our criticisms, 'Well, it's all right, we want these parents to go to work.' They will still lose £6.05.

"Then we're told, 'It's all right, existing claimants will be protected, it only applies to new claimants.

"Well, I have news for the minister. New claimants are people too," she added.

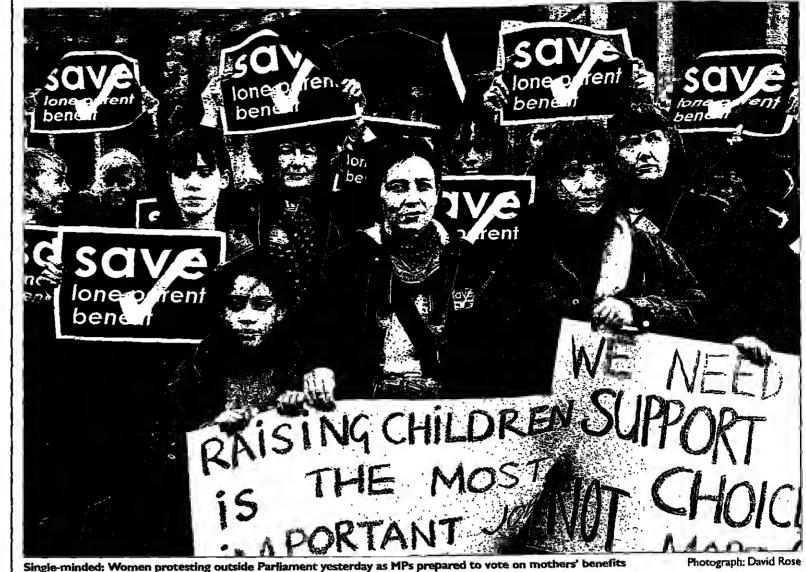
A Labour backbencher who defended the cut, Patricia Hewith former head of the thinktank the Institute for Public Policy Research, was interupted by Labour MPs opposed to the cut. She was told by Lynne Jones, the Labour MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, who led the rebel amendment to the social security Bill, that the Government had been elected on a slogan of "things are going to get better - not things are going to get better except for lone par-

Some Labour MPs who had resigned as ministerial aides earlier in the day looked on as she said: "Much as I would like to accept the argument that lone parent premium is an effective work incentive, it is hard to sustain that argument when the reality is that in this country we have fewer ione mothers in part time or full time jobs than in any other country in the European Union."

Opening the attack for the Liberal Democrats, Steve Webb said the proposal to revoke the higher rate of child benefit for lone parents would fulfil former Tory Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley's "dream". "I ask what possible justifi-

cation there can be for cutting benefits from working lone parents?" Mr Webb said.

The move would save about £5 million - a "drop in the ocean" for the Department of Social Security, which spent such a sum every 25 minutes, he



'What's the point working if my child suffers?'

Bringing up Sam is a full-time job for Ruth Glover, 19, and, what's more, it is one that she wants to do. Labour claims that getting single mothers like her

Into work will improve their quality of life. But, as she told Clare Garner, life would be worse both for herself and her son.

"It's unbelievable," said Miss Glover, as she listened to defending his decision to ab- call all the time."

stain in last night's vote on single mothers' benefits. "I mean, I would hope that people who go into politics do so as individuals and because they really care about issue and are prepared to speak out about them." Miss Glover, from Camden, north London, had come to Westminster with her nine-month-old son to lend her support to the Single Mothers' Self-Defence campaign.

I'm a mother as far as I'm concerned and that is work," she said. "I'm up at six or seven o'clock, it's longer hours than any other job you could Labour MP Austin Mitchell possibly do. It's like being on

she can do a better joh of raising Sam than anyone else. "He had to have major heart surgery after he was born, which they say causes babies to be much more miserable, but he is a very smiley baby and not particularly miserable. I feel sure that is because I've put that time into him."

It is not that she never wants to have a job outside the home. In fact, she hopes to go into nursing in due course. But "if Sam seems to be suffering I want the choice. What's the point in getting a job and caring for other people if my

time heing, she wants to con- are council creches for £65 a centrate her efforts on raising Sam without being labelled a lazy scrounger.

When she voted Labour in the last election she had hoped such attitudes would change. but now she's feeling "disappointed with the lot of them." "This just seems like pe-

nalising the people who really need help - penalising children as well as mothers." she said. Even if she did want to work, the astronomical cost of child care would mean she would not be any better off. The average cost of childcare own child is suffering in that in north London is, she says, try in general."

Miss Glover believes that process?" she said. For the £650 a month and while there week, spaces are limited and there are only two days a year on which to apply.

Miss Glover believes the

implications of Labour's policy are worrying in the long term, "In society there's so much anti-social behaviour, crime and depression, and a lot of this is probably coming from people who are living in poverty," she said, "It's so cliched, but our children are our future and that's just a fact. if they aren't getting off to a good start it doesn't say much about the future of the coun-

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Terror reign at women's prison

Prisoners at a women's jail conducted a reign of terror, leaving staff afraid for their own safety, according to a report published yesterday.

Over the past year there was a series of "serious incidents" - including vicious gang fights between inmates - at Bullwood Hall in Essex, said the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir David Ramshotham. In a scathing inspection report he also said he was "shocked" to learn that a male officer was forced to leave the Prison Service after allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman inmate

in the segregation unit.
A Prison Service spokesman said the incident was investigated by police hut no charges were hrought.

Sir David said he was so concerned by conditions at Bullwood Hall - which the Prison Service has declared to be in need of special managerial attention - that he would conduct a follow-up inspection next year. Incidents at the jail had included assaults on staff and other prisoners, at least two gang fights, cell fires, two passive demonstrations over the amount of time spent inmates locked up in cells, and at least one suspected sexual assault by women on other prisoners as part of the illegal drugs trade.



Divers John Williams (left) and James Heslin examine a granite gravestone, one of 40 brought up on to Old Town beach on St Marys in the Isles of Scilly, from the container ship Cita which sank off the islands in March Photograph; Paul Armiger

Moves to safeguard data on NHS net

Personal medical information stored on the growing NHS computer network may fall into the wrong hands. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, looks at new moves to protect medical records.

The director of a private health care organisation in the United States obtained a list of cancer patients from the computer database. As he was also a director of a local bank he was able to match the information with the list of outstanding bank loans so that he could call

the patients in before they died. Yesterday, Sir Kenneth Calman, the government's Chief Medical Officer, said the case offered a warning of what could happen if medical information could be no guarantee that the

protection of medical records he said the growth of computer networks meant more people and there were greater risks that it could be misused.

He added: "That is a terrihie example of the things that might happen. We must reduce that risk to an absolute minimum. We all have a right to have our personal information treated confidentially."

The report, Review of Patient-Identifiable Information. marks the end of a five-year row between the Department of Health and the British Medical Association which had urged doctors to boycott the NHSwide net, linking computers in GPs' surgeries, hospitals and

health authorities.

were not secured. Speaking at American case could not hapthe launch of a report on the peo here as things stood but there was now a joint determination to do something about it. "The problem was our lack of had access to the information confidence in the NHS executive. We are oot saying everything is now in place, but we are working to put measures in place. There is now agreement on what needs to be done."

However, Simon Davies, a lecturer in information technology at the London School of Economics and a former adviser to the BMA, said the centralisation of data on the NHS net would create a "hacker's smor-

gasbord." The net started on 1 April. 1996, hut was relaunched on Tuesday as part of the NHS White Paper reforms with a promise that patients would get test results quicker and Dr Sandy Macara, the could book hospital outpatient BMA's chairman, said there appointments before leaving

Hindley waits on 'last-chance' Fears over EU

chance" bid by Myra Hindley. the Moors murderer, to overturn the decision that she must die in prison.

Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr a decision of the former home Justice Hooper and Mr Justice secretary. Michael Howard, Astill, said the court hoped to earlier this year - upheld regive its ruling before the end of next week.

Fitzgerald told the judges: "Ef-

The High Court yesterday re- for this applicant." Hindley. art levy scheme served judgment on a flast 55, has served 31 years since she Lesley-Ann Downey, 10, and Edward Evans, 17.

Her lawyers are challenging Straw - to confirm the increase Hindley's QC. Edward of a provisional 30-year minimum sentence imposed in 1985

was jailed in 1966 as Ian Brady's The sale of major works by great co-accused in the murders of masters of 20th-century painting will cease in London if a sales levy intended to benefit artists and their heirs is introduced, the chairman of Christie's warned last night.

Lord Hindlip was stepping cently by his successor, Jack up the London art market's campaign against two European Union taxes - the levy, or droit de suite, and extra VAT which, it fears, will drive business to New York. "If these twin threats are not resolutely tackled ... London's positioo will be ... diminished to an unrecognisable degree," the Tory peer

> the taxes in the House of Lords. Eleven EU states have legislation in place for a levy entitling artists or their heirs for 70 years to a share of proceeds each time works are sold. The European Commission wants to apply it at rates of 2 to 4 per cent

said as he joitiated a debate on

to all resales. So far Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands have resisted. Had the levy existed in the UK in 1996, the British Art Market Federation believes, it would have generated £10m in royalties for EU artists. But perhaps not: the likelihood is that international huyers and sellers of 20th-century art would already have left for New York, where there is no levy.

fectively, this is the last chance to a "whole life" sentence.

DAILY POEM

Jumping toad

by i Jorman MacCaig

Under the broad flat stone was a metropolis of ants. By its edge a toad sat, looking benign and grandmotherly it only needed specs.

Suddenly it floppily jumped. little anuteur - and swallowed an ant that had left its home town.

The toad caught my eye with a look that said You didn't think I had it in me, did you?

And I. dumbfounded, went off whistling Knees up, Mother Brown.

This week's poems celebrate the work of the Edinburgh poet Norman MacCaig, who was born in the city in 1910 and died there in 1996. They come from his Selected Poems, edited by Douglas Dunn and recently published by Chatto & Windus

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9/TRANSPORT

'Jobs lost in Tube sell-off'

Up to half the employees on London's Tube service could be sacked by the private sector to make London Underground profitable, according to the Adam Smith Institute. The right-wing think-tank produced plans, in a document called "Underground Revolution", for "involving the private sector" in running the Tube ser-

Avoiding the word "privatisation", the report's author, Kenneth Irvine, said a model would be the Manchester tram service - which is overseen by the public sector, but not run by it. Mr Irvine - the brains behind the privatisation of British Rail - says LU is "even less efficient than BR".

"I have no doubt private-sector management and marketing expertise would improve productivity and revenues. Just look at how successful the privatised rail companies have been," said Mr Irvine, who has made more than £1m in share options from the floatation of Prism - a rail operator.

The institute's proposals would see the track, signalling and stations of Tube lines being bundled together and franchised to the private sector.

There are practical difficulties. Some lines, such as the newish Victoria line, could be parcelled off as a single entity. But the Piccadilly and District line share both track, signals and an operations room. The "vertically integrated" companies would be taken over by private firms, which would be paid dwindling subsidies in order to upgrade the crumbling tunnels and poor track.

LU say there is an "investment hacklog" of £1.2hn. In a leaked memorandum, the last government estimated that privatisation would net at least £1.2bn for the Treasury - hut noted £600m would be required to upgrade the system.

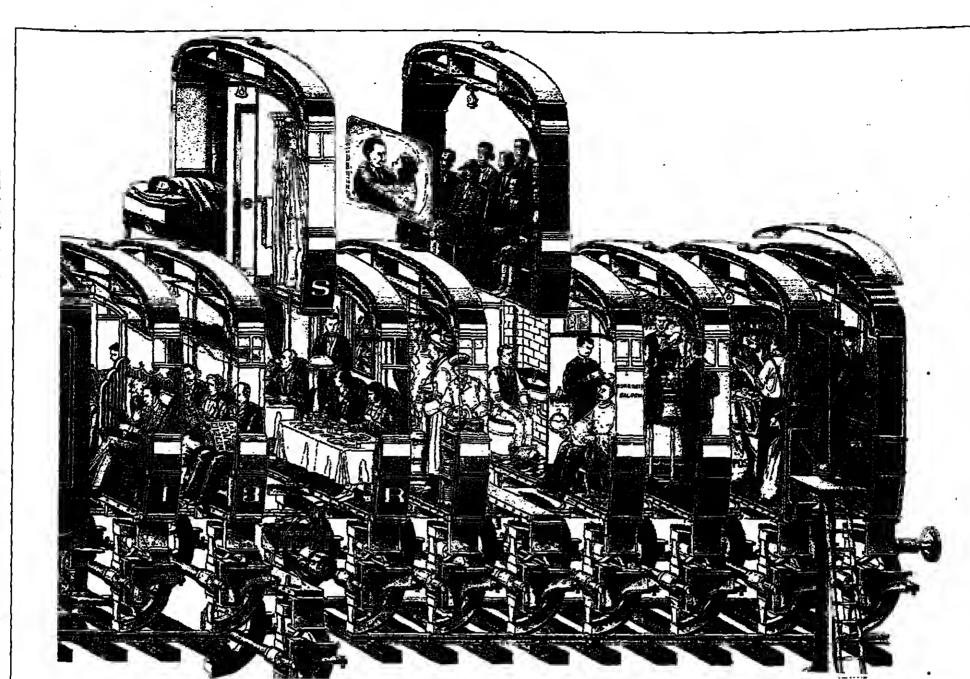
Mr Irvine says extra money for investment could be raised by selling the Tube's ageing rolling stock. And he points out that by offering long-term subsidies the Government could spread payments over 20 years. South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive has proposed the sale and lease back of its Supertram fleet to cover operational loses," said Mr Irvine. LU declined to comment, but a spokesman noted: "The Adam Smith Institute is often referred to as 'right Randeep Ramesh

TIII.

DWING

AKES

GER.



Golden age: The heyday of tuxury rait travel was in the 1930s, when passengers enjoyed first-class meals, sleeping car accommodation, showers and novelties such as headsets, and even a hairdressing salon, as this exploded drawing of the Flying Scotsman shows. The Midland Main Line trains will be less commodious

Top class trains leave rest of us standing

Most rail travellers view taking the train as a chore, not a delight. But for those passengers prepared to pay, the ride is more smooth than rough. Randeep Ramesh explains why we may be seeing the age of two-tier train travel.

Yesterday saw the launch of yet another marketing ploy by a rail company aimed at attracting passengers to the network. The gimmick is a carriage devoted to the business traveller. The company is the successful Midland Main Line (MML) - which runs trains from London to

Despite filling nearly 60 per cent of its 28,000 daily seats, the ellers. The new Business Class will see passengers get "at-service food and drink", complimentary newspapers and 40 per cent more space to relax in.

More room for business travellers means less space for the ordinary punter. The MML trains take eight carriages. Two the well-heeled travellers will commuter lines still use slamare usually used for first-class find televisions and plush seat- door rolling stock from the In the Victorian era, the railways four with the start of the new service in January, leaving fewer seats for those paying standard fares.

The new service will also offer those that pay 40 per cent more room to relax in. But travelling business class costs. London to Sheffield costs £79 more than three times the cheapest tickets.

The future of rail travel appears to be populated by upper-

not appealing to enough trav- companies need to entice more fleet of tilting trains will offer on the tracks, overcrowding passengers with expensive mar-services similar to those found keting wheezes and need to increase fares to pay for them.

year on the Heathrow Express minute trip from Paddington station to the airport. On board, by to see much change. Many

"We are aiming at the business traveller; this is not a mode of mass transport," says Jeremy Job, marketing director of the Heathrow Express.

Other companies also have ambitious plans for luxury train travel. Great North Eastern Railways, which runs the highspeed east coast line, has proposals to revive an un-market Motorail service, replete with a trolley service and cinema-style

train company decided it was class and lower-class fares. Rail screens. Richard Branson's new 1950s and with no new trains yet carried the bourgeoisie in on his aeroplanes' "Upper Class" cabins - including mas-First-class travellers next sages and video games.

While the well-heeled get to will pay nearly £20 for a 15- sample the good life, passengers with lighter wallets are unlike-

will get worse. According to the latest figures from the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, complaints about the travelling environment and comfort on journeys rose by 128 per cent.

In fact, the rail network is likely to go hack to the future.

sumptuous surroundings. It was not unusual to find showers, cocktail bars and fine restaurants in first-class carriages. The American banker JP Morgan even had a carriage for a barber's shop. The poor had to make do with the "under class": little more than cattle trucks

with benches. Railtrack review, page 22

Comfort gripes soaring

Poor punctuality, reliability and information are rail passengers' higgest bugbears. according to latest complaint figures published yesterday.

Moans about overcrowding and comfort on trains have also soared, statistics from watchdog body the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee showed.

The committee was giving more details following its announcement earlier this week that passenger complaints had risen to an all-time high in the July-September 1997 period.

Based on complaints it had received, the committee's statistics for July-September 1997 showed that;

• Complaints totalled 4,560 a 96.1 per cent rise on the July-September 1996 figure;

 The highest number of complaints involved punctuality of trains:

 Moans about reliability and cancellations soared 226 per cent, while complaints about the national rail inquiry service rose 322 per cent;

· Complaints about the travelling environment and comfort on journeys rose by 128 per cent. while moans about information at stations was up 63 per cent; • Complaints in dealing with correspondence and the quality of letters received from train operators soared 266 per cent.

The committee has not hroken down the complaints into individual train companies. But the pressure group Save Our Railways revealed yesterday that complaints received by the two rail watchdog bodies covering South-easl England totalled 2,551 for the period April-September 1997.

Save Our Railways' campaign director, Jonathan Bray, said that this compared with 2,474 received by the London Regional Passengers' Committee and the Rail Users' Consultative Committee for Southern England in the whole of the 1995-96 last year of British Rail-run services.

THE INDEPENDENT

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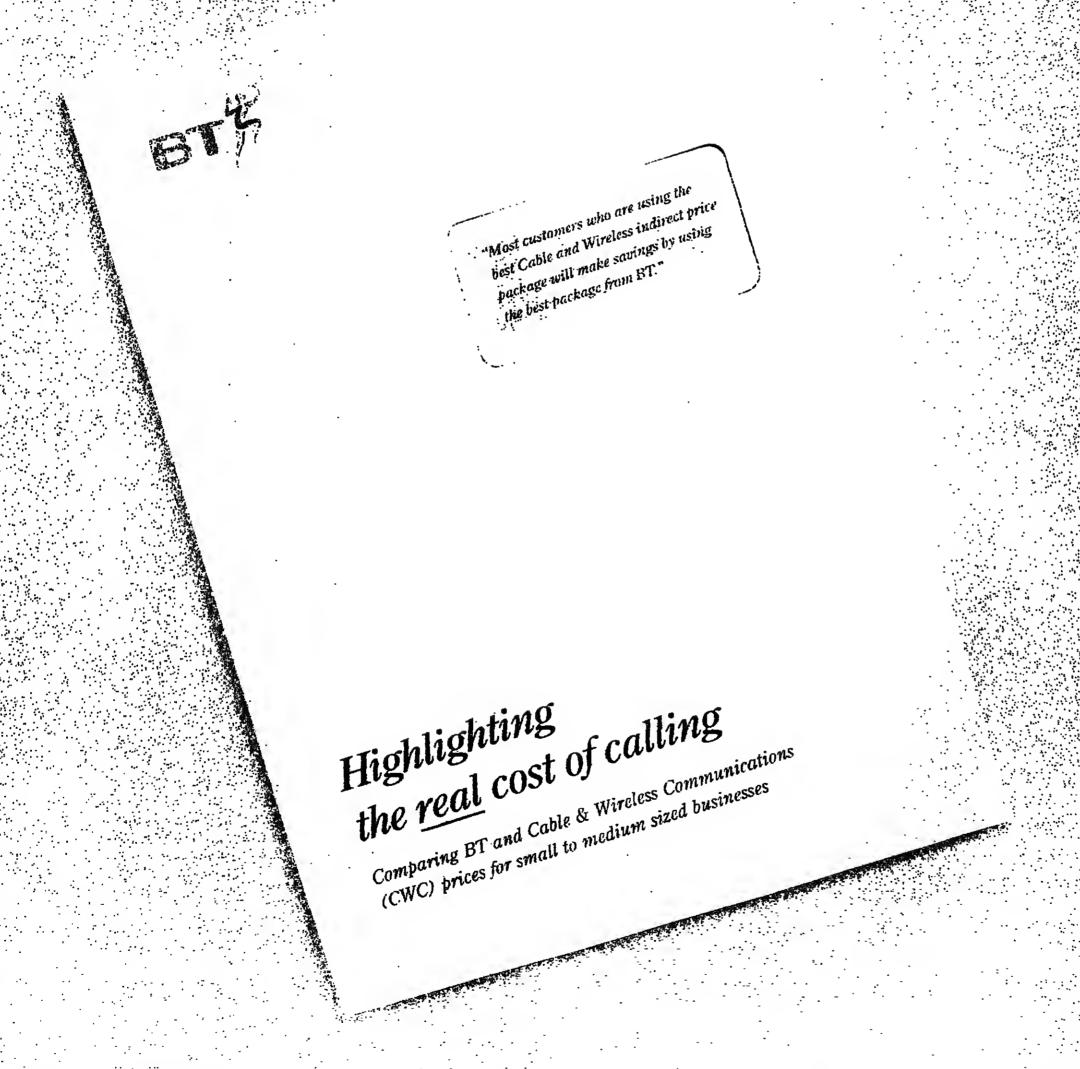
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11/KYOTO SUMMIT

Marathon talks put US to the test



The big sleep: The interminable discussion of the treaty's small print eventually proved too much for some delegates

Photograph: Katsumi Kasahara/AP

If the world's wealthy countries are serious about complying with the Kyoto climate treaty, big changes are ahead in the way they use energy. No country, says Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, faces a bigger challenge than the United States.

The gas-guzzling era is coming to an end for the United States, the world's higgest climate-change polluter in both absolute and per capita terms, Either that, or President Clinton has no intention of honouring commitments made in Japan.

America's emissions have been rising steadily through the 1990s. The White House says that if policies do not change, by 2010. US output of greenhouse gases would be nearly 30 per cent higher than in the treaty's baseline year of 1990. Instead, the US is now expected to cut emissions by some 6 per cent under the protocol. That means a raft of new policies and projects to save energy and generate pollution-free electricity in order to meet the commitment.

But the US is planning to make some of the emission cuts outside its own borders, using the new pollution trading and

Britain and the European Union find themselves in a much easier position. The EU had been pitching for an ambitious 15 per cent cut hetween 1990 and 2010, while the UK's new Government had a manifesto commitment to cut carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, by 20 per cent over that period. Now, under the new treaty, neither the EU nor the UK have any legal

swapping regimes for which the treaty pro- deep cuts. But Britain's environmental nations which enable them to produce less stick to its target, continuing to show For example, the US might provide the exworld leadership in cutting emissions. If the tra finance needed to build a "green", low-UK did, that would open the possibility of pollution power station in India, instead of Britain selling pollution allowances to the a cheaper, highly polluting coal-fired one. USA, worth millions of dollars.

ways in which nations can collaborate to cut would have to obtain a certificate proving greenhouse gases. Industrialised countries this swap was a genuine one which really are allowed to claim some of their reduc- did curh pollution. Part of the fee paid for

groups will be urging the Government to climate pollution than they would otherwise.

The US would then be able to claim the The Kyoto protocol provides several emissions saved as its own, But to do so, it obligation to deliver anywhere near such tions by supporting projects in Third World the certificate would go into a new "clean development mechanism", which would help Third World nations adapt to the impacts of changing climate and rising sea levels.

There is also scope for developed countries to trade în greenhouse gas quotas. A nation that cut emissions below its treaty target could bank up a pollution credit and then sell it, as quotas, to a country which found itself unable to meet its commitment. By buying the quotas it would avoid breaching the treaty. Much of the detailstill has to be thrashed out at future meetings.

Throughout the talks, the EU, Third World and environmentalists have been suspicious of such provisions. But the US has insisted, and these have been the price for getting it to agree to a much deeper cut than it originally offered. Now the big question is whether the Senate will ever ratify the treaty. If it doesn't, the Kyoto protocol is sunk.

Global Warming? Pah! Just give me some clean socks

Late the other night, as the clock ticked on the Kyoto environment conference, a ghastly rumour began to spread among the 9,000-odd delegates, journalists and green campaigners. It was not that the conference might fall apart (although that was a distinct possibility), or that the agreement would he watered down (everyone knew it would be).

The awful possibility, which spread a frisson of fear through the meeting rooms and negotiating buddles, was that instead of ending as scheduled last night, the conference was going to continue until today, or even tomorrow. Global warming, rising oceans, malaria epidemics and skin cancer suddenly paled into insignificance. Nothing, nothing, could be worse than another day of this.

Future generations may or may not lonk back on the Kyoto conference as a out. historic moment when the nations of the world put aside greed and self-interest for the sake of their unborn grandchildren. Those of us who were present will remember it for very different reasons as a redious, migraine-inducing waste of time, an orgy of dismal food, pompous rhetoric, short tempers, and bad jokes.

Several things have made the conference nearly unhearable, first among them its setting - the Kyoto International Conference Hall (Kich). Reports from Kyoto have all described the city as Japan's "ancient capital", a Shangri-la of exquisite kimono. The truth is that since COP3 opened 10 days ago very few delegates have stepped beyond the grey portals of the Kich, a modernist concrete spaceship, appropriately pronounced "kitsch". Instead of exploring the surrounding mountains, they have spent 10 days drinking cups of coffee and eating sandwiches containing cold pork cutlets (a Japanese favourite).

Kich is huge, but so is the conference and all week journalists, politicians and NGOs have trod on one another's toes with increasing grumpiness. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, lost his rag on Monday night after being kept waiting for an hour by the American delegation. Michael Meacher and several of his European counterparts narrowly escaped being crushed yesterday when a mob of cameramen almost knocked

SKETCH BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

down a temporary cubicle on their heads. Even the best-natured stunts have fallen victim to sense of humour failure. One green group mounted a wacky allegoric stunt involving members dressed as world leaders kicking around a ball representing the planet. But when an Italian journalist stole their globe, they called security and tried to have him chucked

It is one measure of the conference's awfulness that a meeting of the some of liveliest minds in the world has so far generated just one COP3 joke. Q. How many Americans does it take to change a light hulh? A. None. Free-market forces will change it all by themselves. Har-har-har.

If, like me, you failed to secure a hotel room the requisite three months hefore the conference your plight has been doubly wretched - 10 days dependent on the generosity of better-organised friends, with personal belongings scattered across various parts of the city, temples, palaces and exotic beauties in moving from place to place in unchanged shirt, reeking socks, and recycled underpants.

An average collection of conference literature fills one suitcase alone, but even the must disciplined delegates have been reduced to shambling bag ladies, bent double under the weight of recycled paper press releases.

It is not even as if this effort and expense has fulfilled expectations. The situation was drolly summed up the other day by Raul Estrada-Oyuela, the Argentine roly-poly who revels in the title of chairman, Committee uf the Whole. Goaded to distraction by the possibility of an extended conference, one journalist pinned him down: what, he begged, was the final deadline for the conference.

Mr Estrada tipped his bead to one side and leant into the microphone: "The deadline? It is the end of the world, no?"

PRESCOTT TAKES A LEADING ROLE

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and head of the British delegation, has suffered many irritations this week, but one green. But in the past two months, and this In particular has been outstanding. It week in particular, he has played a signifireached its climax yesterday, at a meeting of EU ministers, which was being interrupted by the constant trilling of mobile phones. The chairman of the meeting, the Luxembourg environment minister, appeared unbothered by the commotion. According to one present, it was left to Mr Prescott to ask that they be switched off, in language rarely heard in ministerial conclaves.

Mr Prescott is no diplomat and seven months ago, piloting his bartle bus during the Prescott has extended that role.

general election campaign he would have seemed an unlikely, and inexperienced cant role in the negotiation of the Kyoto protocol. In the run- up to Kyoto he made two round-the-world trips to consult with the key parties; after arriving in Japan at the weekend, his irascible leadership has prevailed.

As a member of the "troika" - the past, present and future holders of the European presidency - Britain was always going to play a significant part in negotiations on the EU's behalf in Kyoto. But for several reasons, Mr

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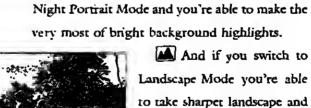
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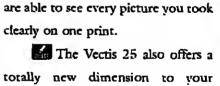
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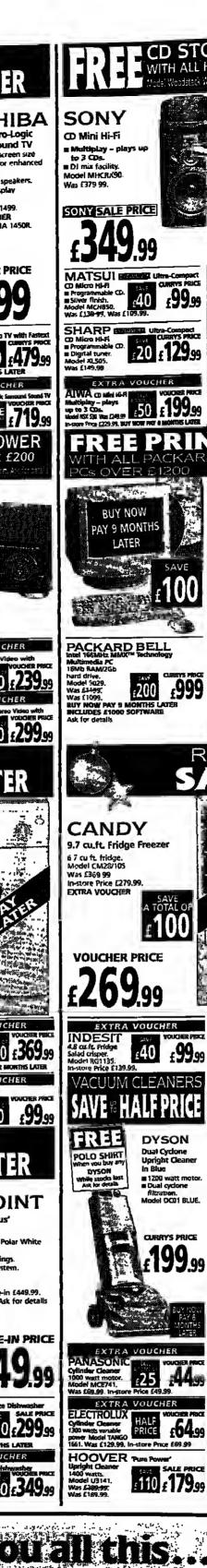


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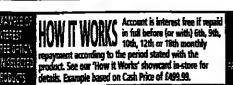


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13/EUROPEAN NEWS

Blair goes in to bat against the Euro XI

Tony Blair goes to an EU summit value of the mark has a profound effect on in Luxembourg tomorrow to fight sterling. Britain's relegation to an EU second division through exclusion from Euro-X, a new club for members of the single currency. Compromise is in the air. But Katherine Butler says a face-saving summit deal will not rescue Britain from the political margins once the euro is launched.

Diplomatic efforts will intensify today to avert a showdown at tomorrow's Luxembourg summit over Euro-X, the planned currency club which is likely to include all the EU's 15 members apart from Britain, Sweden, Greece and Denmark, Failure to patch up the first real rift between the new government and Britain's EU partners would be a serious defeat for Mr Blair which would expose Britain's marginalisation and mar the launch of its forthcoming EU

Despite insistence from Downing Street last night that Britain was still demanding full membership of the grouping, there were signs of compromise. French, German and European Commission officials were venturing to predict a deal can be done which will allay the fears of the four "outs" that they are being excluded from decision- making.

One possibility is a summit declaration that decisions, as opposed to debate, will remain in the hands of the EU Council of finance ministers - which includes Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. The four "outsiders" could meanwhile accept an invitation from the French and Germans to attend meetings of Euro-X when matters which affect them are being discussed.

Alternatively, the 11 "insiders" could agree to limit their private discussions to a short list of areas where they have a genuine need for confidentiality - for example, the exchange rate of the euro against other currencies, sanctions to be imposed on high-spending governments which flout budgetary discipline, and technical issues relating to the euro.

Excluding Britain from exchange-rate discussions is justified on grounds that Mr reality of what a single monetary policy Brown does not have access to Bundesbank even though the deliberations,

Agreement along these lines would require some compromise from the French, who have been leading calls for the remit of Euro X to extend to such areas as taxation and labour-market policies. It would also allow Mr Blair to emerge with some pride intact, elimbing down from the high horse raised by Mr Brown while at the same time claiming he bad seen off a direct threat to Britain's influence. Most of the "in" countries recognise that he needs a political figleaf and because this is Labour, not the Tories, they are happy to provide it.

What they are still not prepared to do is grant Britain and the others the automatic "voice at the table" or the right to block plans that Britain wants. French officials were adamant yesterday that there would be a two-tier structure. "There is little point in a body to link the Eurozone members if those not inside the currency can also attend," said one source.

The irony of any settlement which emerges at Luxembourg is that Mr Brown could bave secured as good a result at the last meeting of EU finance ministers in Brussels 10 days ago. He was offered an "ear at the door," a guaranteed flow of information, and that the new body would he rooted in EU structures which would have provided legal safeguards to the

EU diplomats say Mr Brown "overplayed his hand, by stubbornly sticking to his demands for "full participation" and issuing veiled threats that Britain would launch a "sandwich war", blocking the right of the "ins" to use EU catering facilities for their talks. The public spat he insisted on merely raised the profile of Euro-X. strengthened the resolve of the others and exposed in hlunt terms the extent to which non-participation in EMU carries the price of political exclusion.

French talk of bedrooms and married couples not wanting intruders between the sheets may bave strained the imagery hut Britain's decision to rule out a decision on joining the Euro for now really does threaten to leave British ministers straining at the keybole. What the row shows, ministers from other countries believe, is that Britain simply has not woken up to the among 11 countries will entail.



A cake prepared for Hitler's 55th birthday on 20 April 1944. Officers still celebrate the day

Photograph: The Death of Hitler, Richard Cohen Books

German army officers still loyal to Nazis

As the trickle of scandals swells into a flood, Germany's Defence Minister calls for an independent inquiry into the armed forces. An investigation is likely to draw disturbing conclusions about the state of the Bundeswehr, reports

Imre Karacs from Bonn.

"We have made mistakes," admitted Volker Rühe, the embattled Defence Minister, at yet another impromptu public appearance yesterday. The biggest of these, it now appears, was to underestimate the extent of neo-Nazi contamination in the Bundeswehr.

On Monday, Mr Rühe stubbornly held his line, refusing to sanction an inquiry on

Marijuana sent to French MPs

ber four was just another "iso- Goebbels, and watching a Nazi post brought revelations of neo-Nazi mayhem at two more barracks, plus video evidence at a third.

The coup de grace is coming today. The cover story of Stem magazine this morning will feature the lads of the Franz-Josef-Strauss barracks in the Bavarian town of Altenstadt, training centre for an élite parachute regiment.

According to Stern, the barracks regularly celebrated Hitler's birthday, the anniversary of the outhreak of the Second World War, as well as their famous predecessors' landing on Cretc. The magazine carries pictures of soldiers posing in front of a portrait of Hitler and the Nazi swastika-flag.

At these festive events, the paras are reported to have entertained themselves listening to the Horst Wessel song, the grounds that scandal num- speeches hy Hitler and

lated incident". Yesterday's propaganda film about Jews. A former officer at Altenstadt claims the training centre was imbued with the "military traditions of the Third Reich", including mementoes of the last

> The pictures and the story date back to 1993. A year later some paras clashed with a group of foreigners in a local cluh. A few weeks after that incident, the then commander summed up the local espirit de corps as follows: "The German paratrooper asks no questions:

"It was clear to me, that some of our superiors wanted to instill in us young soldiers the traditions of the Wehrmacht." one former trainec told Stem. He spoke of one officer were stupid enough to allow out, who, together with Chan keeping SS regalia and a volthemselves to be lectured by a cellor Helmut Kohl, had tried ume of Hitler's Mein Kampf in neo-Nazi terrorist.

condoned by senior officers will Nazi invited to the academy shot his target.

his room.

only be known when the "isoand paid by the government to "re-Germanise" East Prussia. lated incidents" are investicomes to a bead today. gated. But according to a professor teaching at the Parliament is due to debate Bundeswehr university", even the role played by the defence and foreign ministries, which the officer corps is not immune

to political extremism. Prof are predictably pointing the fin-Wolfgang Gesserharter told ger at one another. Mr Rühe's position apthe weekly Die Zeit that 20 per cent of applicants to the university showed "nationalist-

pears untenable. The army, hlaming him for years of "upheaval", wants him out. conservative tendencies. A proper breakdown to A retired four-star general discover the percentage of

hroke ranks yesterday and launched a withering attack. Nazi sympathisers did not exist, hecause Minister Rühe accusing the minister of "surrounding himself with yesmen" and of being unable to But since the beginning of this week, it is known that up tolerate independent thinkers. to 30 staff at the army's most

The opposition parties are also assembling together a prestigious academy were unhealthily preoccupied with the lynch-party.

It was Mr Ruh, they point to instill a sense of patriotism in the armed forces. In that, the How much of this was Roeder, the convicted neo-minister seems to have over-

Bosnia's leaders told to do their job or lose it

Bosnia's bickering leaders were decisions that would normally be given an ultimatum yesterday. ordering them to start governing their country or let the international community do it for them.

At the end of a two-day meeting in Bonn, representatives of 51 countries approved a document which came close to giving dictatorial powers to Carlos Westendorp, the chief co-ordinator in Bosnia.

"A clear signal has been sent from Bonn: the patience of the international community is not inexhaustible," declared Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister who hosted the Peace Implementation Conference.

Under the new rules, Mr Westendorp will be able to take

in the remit of the Bosnian government. He will thus design the country's car licence plates by the end of January; a task that has eluded the combined Croat. Serh and Muslim authorities so

The new policy is already making its effect felt. Under the aegis of the Bonn meeting, the leaders of the three communities were at last able to agree on the design of the Bosnian passport, and a new law defining cit-

Asked by journalists after the meeting whether Bosnia had now become an international "protectorate", Mr Kinkel said "no", while Mr Westendorp. revealingly, answered "not yet".

Mr Westendorp, whose official title is "High Representative", served notice that he now expected the former warring parties to start co-operating with the international court in The Hague, to build a police force. and to clamp down on corrup-

At the insistence of Robin criminalisation of marijuana Cook, the British Foreign Secretary, and the US representative, Strobe Talbott, the final document also deplored "escalating ethnic tensions" in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo. The Yugoslav delegation responded to the call for a dialogue between Belgrade and Kosovo's Albanian population by storming out of the conference.

— Imre Karacs, Bonn

rette to every French MP, along with letters urging them to ease France's tough drug laws. This legislation, the most repressive in Europe, has done

illegal substances." the Paris-A group advocating the debased Collective for Informasaid vesterday that it had sent tion and Research on Connabis (CIRC) wrote. a hand-rolled marijuana ciga-

A spokesman said the joints, made from marijuana grown in France, had been mailed on Tuesday afternoon, National Assembly deputies differed sharoly in their reactions to the gifts, although none said they intended to smoke them.

- Reuters, Paris

Nato base in Sicily gave contracts to Mafia

had vetoed such a study.

lost lands of East Prussia, and

The affair of Manfred

21 suspects who allegedly worked to ensure that millions of dollars in contracts for a Nato air base would go to companies controlled by the Mafia, au-

thorities said vesterday. Among the suspects was Benedetto Santapaola, an imprisoned convicted mob boss considered the Mafia's number one in eastern Sicily. Investigators believe many bosses

Warrants have been issued for manage to run their affairs even from behind hars. Two suspected bosses from

Santapaola's clan were among those arrested, authorities said. No US citizens were involved, but a British citizen working at Sigonella air base, identified by officials at DIA. the Italian anti-Mafia inves-

Sicilian husinessmen were also named in warrants for their alleged role in the scheme. including lending their "clean" names to serve as officials of front companies for the Mafia.

Thanks to information from some of the suspects, bidders from the Matia-linked companies were able to tearn what tigative unit, as Raymond competitors were bidding and Watkins of Bristol, was among thus deliver the lowest bid.

'Mad-cow' doctor rewarded with a Nobel prize

A doctor whose work illuminated a cause of dementia, and a playwright whose characters act demented to shine light on social concerns joined eight others in receiving Nobel prizes last night. The laureates in literature, physics, chemistry, medicine and economics accepted their prizes from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf in a ceremony at Stockholm's Concert Hall.

Instead of providing a prepared text, the literature prize winner, Dario Fo. gave the audience sheaves of brightly coloured drawings which referred to the main ideas in his extemporised talk. The medicine prize goes to Stanley Prusiner, of the University of California-San Francisco, who discovered the infectious agent behind "mad-cow disease" and other brain-wasting afflictions that include a rare form of dementia in humans. The Nobel Prizes are presented on 10 December, the anniversary of the death of Aifred Nobel, - AP, Stockholm whose will established the awards.

Havel set for new term

President Vaclav Havel accepted the backing by representatives of four parties for a second five-year term. The 61year-old president's current term is ending as the Czech Republic faces a period of political instability imprecedented

in its eight-year transition from communism. The government of Vaciav Klaus collapsed a week and a haif ago in a financial scandal. Mr Havel has given the Chrishan Democrat Josef Lux the task of trying to put together * new government. On Tuesday, the president subjected the outgoing government to searing criticism, saving it denied catizens a real voice and created the impression that it pays to lie and steal. Neither Mr Havel's critique of the Klaus govcomment nor his tenuous health after undergoing surgery for hing cancer a year ago seemed likely to seriously hurt his Chances of re-election. Parliament will decide 20 January whether to give him a second, and final, term. - AP, Prague

BIGGEST L STORES

Senator sentenced over calls

An elderly French senator was of making the calls in 1902 when pended jail term for making in- town of Neuville-les-Bois. sulting telephone calls to constituents, threatening to

handed a three-month sus- he was mayor of the central A member of the rightist

nothing to halt the massive

spread of drugs, nor has it

slowed the appetite of a certain

number of our fellow citizens for

Union for French Democracy. burn their houses or kill them. he denied making the calls and Senator Kleber Malecot, 82. insisted he was the victim of a was convicted by a Paris court political plot.







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Ser

Boris Yeltsin is in hospital with what his multiple coronary bypass and pneumonia a flurry of damage control from his aides, ly, he looked old and unwell again. but came as no surprise.

The first inkling that something was wrong with the Russian president arose last week, during his trip to Sweden. For several months he had been remarkably sprightly, having fully recovered from the sanatorium outside Moscow, a process that

aides say is a virus. The news has caused that sidelined him last winter. Now, abrupt-

Yesterday suspicion hardened into fact with an announcement by the Kremlin that he was suffering from "an acute respiratory viral infection", the result of a cold, and had been dispatched to recover in the Barvikha

vously by a few per cent, the president's "no reason for concern" aides tried to quell any hint of alarm. His spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky: he would be resting, but not confined to bed;

Russia's small stock market shrunk ner- ment from the White House that there was

For those who watched Mr Yelisin in condition was not serious, said his Sweden none of this was surprising. The Kremlin said yesterday this was where his cold began. So, too, did some of the erratic he will be making his regular radio broad-behaviour that characterised previous forcast tomorrow. The Americans then eign excursions. He named Japan as a nu-

doctors expect to take up to 12 days. As weighed in obligingly with an announce-clear power (it isn't), confused Norway with Sweden, and made several operatic hut largely meaningless offers on unilateral arms cuts. Once again, mutterings began to uncoil in the Western press that, just over a year after his heart operation, the president was back on the bottle lalthough with precious little evidence).

Other factors now seem more plausible.

He may, indeed, have a viral infection. He may also be exhausted. Persistent ill health and the burdens of office have aged the 66year-old Mr Yeltsin prematurely. He remains an obsessive man who either hurls himself into his work or withdraws to brood in private, detached and depressed. This year, the former condition has largely prevailed. - Phil Reeves, Moscow

TWA crash forces **Boeing rethink**

It is an assumption that has survived decades of aircraftbuilding: keep ignition sources away from fuel tanks and never mind how flammable their contents become. But, as David Usbome in New York explains, now is the time for second thoughts.

A year and a half after the fiery crash of TWA 800 off the coast of Long Island, the Boeing Company has conceded that it may have radically to rethink the design of the fuel tanks inside all the aircraft it builds.

The remarkable change of tack, offered at hearings on the TWA 800 tragedy under way in Baltimore, may affect not just aeroplanes now on the drawing board. It could force costly modifications on thousands of aircraft already in the sky, whether made by Boeing or by its main rival, Airbus.

"I don't know when the last ome was that we had a shift like this," said Douglas Webb, a spokesman for Boeing which manufactured the 747 Jumbo Jet which crashed on 17 July tast year killing all 230 people on board.

Investigators with the National Transport Safety Board, which convened the hearings, are confident that the crash followed a devastating explosion in the Boeing's huge central fuel tank which tore the plane's fuselage apart.

The blast apparently occurred after temperatures in the tank rose sufficiently to cause the small amount of fuel it contained to vaporise. What ignited the vapour is a mystery, however. One expert noted that dropping a 10 cent coin half an inch would produce sufficient energy for ignition.

Yesterday, a safety board expert testified that special attention was being paid to the probes that measured the fuel level in the plane's tank. Investigators consider it just possible that excess current in a probe, perhaps caused by a short circuit, might bave triggered a fatal spark.

Both Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration were until recently sticking by a four-decade-old principle that it was enough simply to ensure the insulation of such tanks from all potential sources of ignition. But in Baltimore both have acknowledged that a parallel effort is now needed also to combat the build-up of flammable vapours inside tanks.

"It has become clear to us throughout this investigation that tank maintenance hasn't been a high-priority issue fleetwide," said Daniel Chency of the FAA. "It's something we plan to take action on and it's going to apply to more than just the Boeing 747 and more than just the Boeing fleet."

The implications for the industry could be enormous. Changing the configuration of the fuel tanks could be extremely expensive and might lead to temporary groundings of thousands of planes.

Jim Hall, the safety board chairman, was angered that six months after he issued a directive asking airlines to inspect all 747 fuel tanks, only 52 of the jets out of a world fleet of 970 have been checked.

The possible options being considered by Boeing engineers include insulating central fuel tanks from the heat-generating air condition units that often lie directly beneath them by introducing a thin current of cool air between them. Alternatively, it might be possible to vent fuel vapours from

Israel aims to block Palestinian census

Authority from taking a census of Palestinians in east Jerusalem.

It would prevent all actions by the Palestinian Authority which Israel considers insaid Shimon Peres, his predecessor, would tinians with Jerusalem identity cards, in the next stage of the Israeli pull-out. though many live in Palestinian suburbs of — Patrick Cockburn, Jerusalem

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime the city which are outside the municipal Minister, was yesterday poised to push boundaries. The Palestinian Authority is through a law preventing the Palestinian conducting a census of the 1.5 million Pales-900,000 who live in Gaza. Despite his intransigence on Jerusalem, Mr Netanyahu is reported secretly to have frozen the next consistent with its sovereignty. When he stage of construction at Har Homa, the won the election last year, Mr Netanyahu Jewish neighbourhood planned for the outskirts of the city. The US is pressing Israel divide Jerusalem. There are 180,000 Pales- to quit at least 12 per cent of the West Bank

Hunters slaughter chimpanzees for meat



Off the menu: Chicochima, a young chimp in an Israeli zoo with her new-horn baby, is safe from the poachers

study of chimpanzees, yesterday said illegal hunting is the greatest threat to the primates.

As logging companies push more animals are vulnerable to hunters who find ready markets for their meat, Ms Goodall, 64. said at a news conference.

Instead of using traditional nets, spears and snares, hunters are now using shotguns and automatic rifles, "I think the hush

Jane Goodall, renowned for her meat trade is probably the greatest danger in many Central and West African countries today." she said.

Hunting and the destruction panzee population to 250,000. from 2 million at the turn of the century, she said.

The trade in chimpanzee and gorilla meat is extensive in Africa, despite the fact that both are protected species. Chimpanzee and gorilla are on

menus in cities from Cameroon to Congo, and as far away as Paris and Brussels, according the World Wide Fund for Nature.

A recent survey by the the Republic of Congo found meat from 19 gorillas in one market. A similar study by the International Primate Protection League estimated 400 to 600 gorillas are killed each year in the



- AP, Noirohi Jane Goodall: Warning

Commandos storm plane

A hijacker claiming to be wired with explosives seized a Russian aircraft yesterday, but was overpowered by commandos after hedemanded \$10m (£6.2m) and safe passage to Switzerland.

All 155 crew and passengers aboard the Ilyushin-62 were released unharmed after élite Alpha Squad commandos rushed the plane and grabbed the hijacker, less than an hour after the flight landed at Sheremetyevo-1 airport.

Security officials said the man, who was identified as Gennady Todikov, 59, was mentally unstable and had sent letters to the government in the past calling for the "reconstruction of the world."

ANC blow for Winnie

The African National Congress: may change its rules to make it: harder for Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and others seeking top party office to get nominated during next week's national conference.

Mrs Mandela, who was divorced from the South Africanpresident, Nelson Mandela, last year failed to win a nomination for ANC deputy president ahead of the ANC conference. despite her endorsement by the ANC Women's League which she heads.

- AP, Johannesburg

PLO stays on sidelines

Palestinian diplomats at the United Nations were licking their wounds yesterday follow ... ing the blocking of a resolution before the General Assembly that would have granted Palestine the status virtually of a full member state.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation will have to continue to make do with the observer status first granted to it in 1974.

— David Usborne, New York

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Bogeyman who can still terrorise from the witness box



icon of fear: The face of Carlos the Jackal - with the dark glasses that became almost a trademark - used on the cover of the Black Grape album It's Great When You're Straight ... Yeah!

The face became an icon of the 1970s, but 'Carlos the Jackal' has rarely been seen in public before. Tomorrow in Paris, the Jackal - Ilich Ramirez-Sanchez, the most celebrated terrorist of all time ~ goes on trial. John Lichfield writes from Paris that he may yet have a few surprises to spring.

Carlos is 48 now, paunchier than ever and exhausted by more than three years of solitary confinement in a French jail. In his rare up-to-date pictures, he resembles the Venezuelan businessman be might bave been. like his two brothers Lenin and Vladimir. Instead, he invented a new trade: "professional international terrorist".

It was Ramírez-Sanchez who shot and wounded Joseph Sieff, president of Marks and Spencer in St John's Wood in 1973; it was Ramirez-Sanchez, by then known as Carlos, who led the kidnapping of 10 Opec oil ministers in Vienna in December 1975; it was Carlos who orchestrated, a score of attacks for Soviet bloc governments in the late 1970s and 1980s (but nothing like as many as he was credited with),

The Soviet empire colbarrassment to the leaders of stand trial in Paris from the Palestinian cause which he tomorrow. Jury selection begins had passionately (or cynically?) today.



The aftermath on the raid at the Opec meeting in 1975: Two newly-released hostages comfort each other

espoused. In 1994 he was "sold" to the French government by his jury, which is unusual in terrorist Sudanese hosts, in return for unspecified political favours.

Why did the French want him so desperately after all those years? Partly, it was a political coup ahead of the 1995 presidential election. Partly, the French security services had n personal score to settle; the murder in Paris in June 1975 of two officers of the DST, the in-. ternal security service.

follow but it is for these murlapsed: Carlos became an em- ders that Ramirez-Sanchez will

The fact that there will be a

cases in France, is telling. The terror network which Carlos ran, with connections in Japan. Germany and the Middle East. is history. He does not scare ly. But he may still be capable ment, especially to the French government which captured

Ramirez-Sanchez and his use the trail to reveal the secrets governments in the 1980s. "He's going to say things which will hurt," says one of his says one of his his last manipulation."

leading lawyers, Isabelle Coutant-Peyre.

Maybe. Other than the silk shirts and cigars sent from his doting family in Venezuela, one of Ramirez-Sanchez's remaining pleasures is to tie lawyers in knots of sophistry. It is said that none of his legal team, all of whom are giving their services for free, knows who will play the principal role in the trial.

Ilich Ramirez-Sanchez was born in Venezuela in October 1949. His father, a successful lawyer, was a committed Marxist-Leuinist (hence the names given to his sons). According to one version of his life, llich was trained as an international terrorist as a teenager in Cuba in the late 1960s; according to another version, he was a political dilettante - part radical, part playboy - until he discovered the Palestinian cause in 1970.

What truly drove Carlos remains a mystery. Although a self-appointed agent of the oppressed, he was partial to luxury throughout his career.

In an book hased on French trial documents and East German records - Carlos, by Bernard Violet - one of his people any more; not physical- French lawyers insists that his client is a true Latin American of causing severe embarrass- revolutionary. "Through him, you can imagine what Che must have been like, or the early Fidel Castro."

Another of his lawyers, quot-Other trials are expected to 29 lawyers say that he plans to ed at length by Le Figaro, was less impressed; "He's finished, of his trade-offs with western a heaten man. All that he's got left is this rather desperate, kind of judicial, guerrilla warfare. It's

FREEDOM FIGHTERS OR TERRORISTS? THE SHADOWY FIGURES WHO DEALT IN DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

Carlos the Jackat is not alone with his fame. in dozens of terrorist attacks in the past 20 ly high profile worldwide. Some are now dead, others are still on the run, others live ple died.

quietly respectable lives. Of all terrorists dead or alive, Abu Nidal is the most feared. He has become synonymous with the concept of a shadowy terrorist mastermind. All photographs are long

There are others whose dedication to vi-years, including attacks on Rome and Vian attack on a Greek ferry in which 11 peo-

entirely undisputed. He has been implicated Arafat's senior aides in 1990. He is rethat the hijacks were the only way to draw war with the West German state in the

olence has gained them an almost equal- enna airports in which 17 people died and there. According to some reports, he has been ill with cancer,

Almost equally well known in her day ambassador for Yasser Arafat's PLO in Suplanes on behalf of the Palestinian cause. dan and Iraq. But in 1973 he quarrelled She now lives in Jordan. a 53-year-old with the PLO, saying it was too moderate. mother with teenage sons. But she remains He has threatened to kill Mr Arafat, and true to her convictions, insisting that she

portedly based in Litya, though it is un-attention to the Palestinian cause, A hi- 1970s. For some, the Baader-Meinhof clear whether he has freedom of movement jack attempt on an El Al aircraft in 1970 ended with her colleague shot dead, and with Khaled arrested in the UK. But she was released after just a few weeks, in an He was born in Jaffa in 1937, and was was Leila Khaled, who twice hijacked exchange of seven captured Palestinians for 300 civilian hostages.

The most famous European terrorists in recent decades have been Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof, who jointly

group were mindless terrorists; others argued that the group forced West Germany to confront its history. Baader and Meinhof died in prison in 1976 and 1977 respectively - suicides or convenient deaths, according to one's point of view. A number of lesser-known members of the Red

The word "terrorist" means different

things to different people. All over the world, different groups advocate violence in order to get nd of what they perceive as illegitimate regimes at home. Increasingly. Western powers are taking a tough line against those who advocate violence in their home countries, however undemocratic those countries may be. Egypt Army Faction (an offshoot of Baader- complains that Islamic radicals are at lib-Meinhof), are still on the run; they appear erty in the UK. British legislation looks set out of date, and few facts about him are was responsible for killing two of Mr was a freedom fighter not a terrorist, and gave their names to the group that was at on "Wanted" posters all across Germany. to be tightened up, in the months to come.

- Steve Crawshaw

THE INDEPENDENT



Reader Evening at Bluebird

INDEPENDENT / BLUEBIRD EVENING: TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER **BLUEBIRD, 350 KINGS ROAD, LONDON, SW3 5UU**

loin Terence Conran, The Independent and the Independent on Sunday as we celebrate Christmas at Bluebird on Tuesday 16th December from 6pm to 9pm.



Recently tipped as Time Out's "best for foodies and gardeners", Bluehird food market has the perfect Christmas wrapped up. Their experienced staff can guarantee your table will be laden with the finest fare: free range turkeys and geese, cured hams, smoked fish and crustacea, farmhouse cheeses and fresh fruit and vegetables have been sourced from the best local producers from around the UK.

Blueblrd's chefs are busy in the kitchens making mince pies, Christmas puddings, Scollen, Christmas cake, wonderful fresh baked breads, as well as great prepared dishes and canapés for your Christmas parties.

With fine tableware from the Chef Shop, Christmas trees, Christmas flowers, Christmas holly and Christmas mistletoe from Bluebirds flower market: and champagne, wine and spirits from the wine merchant, fly down to 350 King's Road for all your Christmas needs.

The Independent and Independent on Sunday have joined forces with Bluebird to offer readers an exclusive evening of shopping and special events. Independent readers will be able to enjoy:

A 15% discount in all areas of the food market, including the Chef Shop Offers on specially selected wines, ideal for stocking for Christmas Complimentary Tanqueray Martini's and Taittinger Champagne Tastings of seasonal produce from suppliers

Demonstrations from Bluebird Chefs, including cake-decorating and bread-making Book signings by Terence Conran and others in the Chef Shop Helpful tips for the perfect Christmas dinner from Bluebird's chefs, as well as

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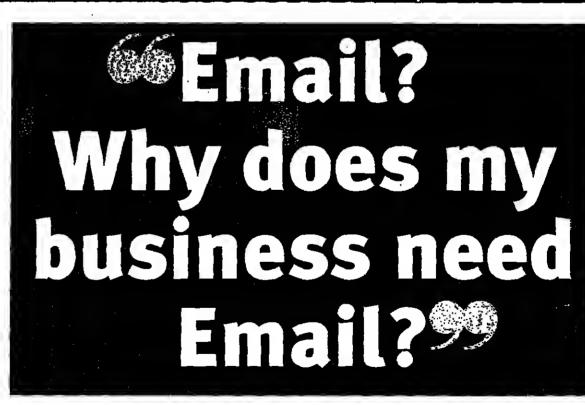
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Californian sunset, Ronald Reagan

may have been superseded or

discredited, his faculties may be

fading, but the man Americans

becoming a legend in his lifetime.

quisher of communism, Ronald Reagan.

in a gathering haze of Alzheimer's confu-

lost him the job. Robert Dole, last year's

failed presidential candidate, just never got

into his stride. Decent men both, they had

neither the presence nor the ideas to gar-

sure popular touch, it was the Democrat,

Bill Clinton, who inherited Reagan's pop-

ulist mantle. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the

House of Representatives, who tried to

Caspar Weinberger.

called 'the Gipper' is fast

Mary Dejevsky explains why.

Nostalgic Republicans make a myth out of the Gipper Almost a decade after he slew the 'evil empire' and rode off into the

ner the votes

and less denying of death. A recent book, the latest in a crop of Reagan biographies, sets the new tone. Written by Dinesh d'Souza, who was briefly a researcher in the Reagan White House,

it is entitled Ronald Reagan: how an ordinary man became an extraordinary leader. Gone are the verdicts of "sleepwalking through history" and "guilty, but asleep" that accompanied the return of the Democrats to power. The mood is laudatory. The victory over communism may he history, but Reagan's priorities and his story tap a rich vein of anti-government, anti-Washington, back-to-the-grassroots sentiment that is now resurgent. Not that the Reagan revival has not been

First Lady. She is being quietly applauded by a new generation of Americans that

is more forthright about illness than before

without its spats. In Washington, the Ronald Reagan federal building that will house hundreds of government employees has come? in late and millions of dollars over budget It is the butt of bitter jokes as the very thing he would have hated. The most recent miscalculation was a proposal from the self-styled Reagan Legacy Project that Washington's recently refurbished National Airport should be renamed in his honour. Some saw this as Republicans' revenge

for the fact that they must pronounce the name Kennedy whenever they fly to New York. But that was about as polite as the comments got. The New York Democrat and hist torian, Daniel Moynihan, objected that Washington airport was "already named af ter a president - the first one". Some predicted a strike by air traffic controllers in sympathy with those sacked by Reagan in his early conflict with organised labour.

But it was the salt-of-the-earth Rea-

ganites who were most dismissive. If publish lic edifices were to be named after individuals who made America feel good? where does one find the Robin Williams National Cathedral or the Barry Manilow: public respect, both for Reagan and for his: turnpike?" wrote one correspondent to the Washington Post. Their view - to judge by the many who felt strongly enough to write to the newspapers or ring up the talkshows - is that Reagan needs no such monument. To name an airport after him would be not only unnecessary, hut demeaning.

In the minds of millions of Americans, his myth is already made. His eventual passing will only enhance it.



Special relationship: Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher felt they had vanquished communism, now the former US president is vast becoming a legend

With his gift for communication and his ject for America and legislated with gus- he as secure as it seems. The preliminary to, only to be comprehensively out- scrapping between would-be presidential manoeuvred by Clinton and left to languish candidates for 2000 is already gathering

The Republicans are now contemplatsnatch it back with a bombastic speaking ing next year's mid-term elections with some style and unashamedly right-wing policies, trepidation. They expect to keep control never quite lived up to expectations. He of Congress. But with the economy boomhelped the Republicans win both Houses ing (for the time being), and Mr Clinton of Congress three years ago with his Pro-still hugely popular, their position may not

pace - a son of George Bush, the wife of Bob Dole, the mayor of New York and the millionaire Steve Forbes among them - but the right still lacks a discernible identity. and charisma.

By happy chance - for them - their search for a guiding idea coincides with a

wave of national nostalgia for Ronald Reagan, his politics and his person. The nostalgia is less for the specifics of Reaganism - the "evil empire" is gone, "Reagonomics" has been banished by Clinton's "balanced budget" - than for the generalities and above all the certainty; belief in God. America and self-improvement. The longing for Reaganite certainties in an uncertain world is reinforced by a growing

wife, Nancy.

Their decision to make his illness public, her discreet public appearances in his place - most recently at the gathering of past presidents that inaugurated George Bush's presidential library in Texas - and her transparent honesty are fast erasing the impression of showy flightiness and extravagance for which she was criticised as

in Lone nhill (b

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communists

... while Gorby gets the blame for everything

History, in all its perversity, collapse of the Soviet Union round for his sworn foe and Drinkers still scoff at his anti- the former president interkith and kin as a door-to-door encyclopaedia salesman at 6am on a Sunday morning.

At 66, the father of glasnost and perestroika can boast the advantage of still having most contrast, more than 26 million of his wits about him, hut the

could hardly have dealt two and the relentless economic nemesis, Boris Yeltsin. more different hands. While a malaise that followed in Russide of the Cold War parapets, heroic stature that he enjoys painful confirmation came last less than one per cent of the ballot, some 396,000 votes. By

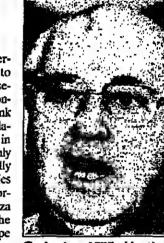
ters towards republican saint-age to his popularity and is awcsomely long and a little orous wife. Raisa, whose rep-ey for his Moscow-based think who hanker after communism. ahroad is evident in his home hlame him for destroying the about as much affection by his land. If he ever doubted that, party. Patriots blame him for tivate the memory of his wrecking an empire. Anti-communisis and liberals blame him ian presidency and attracted for trying to use force to cling on to the Soviet Union and the Party and contend that anything he achieved was more by cir- latest enterprise. Six years af-

alcohol campaign, which has rupted his semi-retirement to them both. Unlike Mr Reagan. he has no political party to culachievements; the communists

This month Mr Gorbachev's decline seemed complete when news broke of his

The list of the former Sovi- had no lasting impact. And the star in a Pizza Hut advertisebefuddled Ronald Reagan tot-sia has done irreparable dam-et president's domestic enemies jealous blame him for his glam-ment, reportedly to raise montion. The commercial, shot in Moscow but for hroadcast only outside Russia, reportedly shows enthusiastic fast foodies crying out: "Long Live Gorhachev, who brought us Pizza Hu!" At present, that is the only complement he can hope for, at least at home.

Phil Reeves, Moscow



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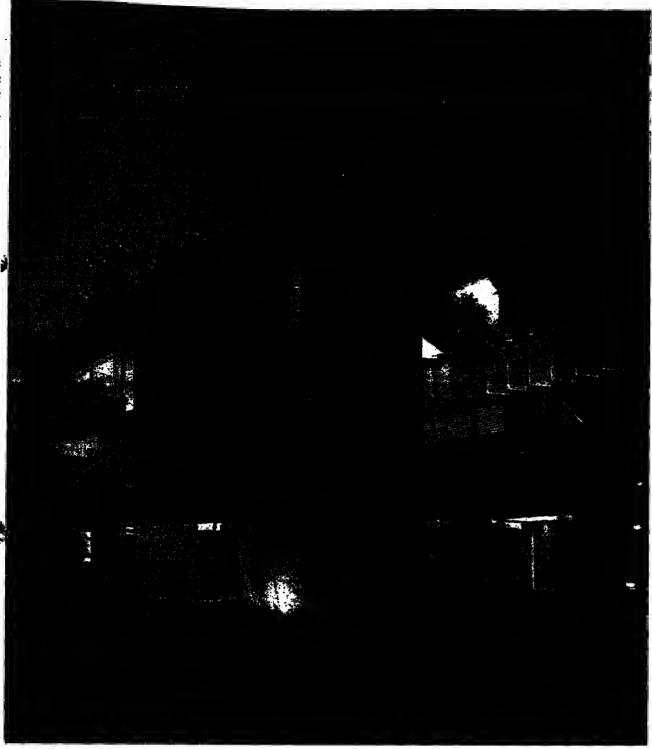


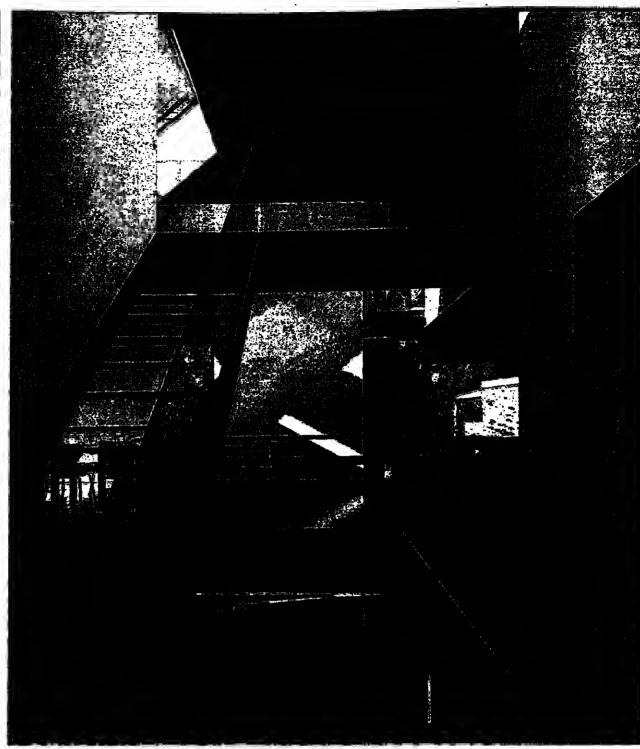
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The boundaries between inside and out blur in Rick Mather's award-winning house that turns its face to the wall when the view isn't so good and opens out to the garden when it is. A glass floor section lets light from the skylight above bathe the swimming pool (above right). The swimmers can gaze up to the clouds Photos: Richard Bryant / Arcaic

It's in London and it's a lovely white house on a hill (but not as you'd imagine it)

There's good news and bad news for modernists commissioned to bring exciting new houses to leafy Hampstead, One built his house and won a prize. The other, reports Nonie Niesewand, was cut off at the computer.

The London architect Rick Mather won an award of excellence from the American Institute of Architecture on Tuesday night for an angular. modern glass house in Hampstead.

Built on a steep slope, the house is actually on three levels - four counting the roof garden - with gardens on the lower two levels and the upper master bedroom suite opening on to a roof terrace. A roof light

beams natural light down sense". The only architect to deand rather than letting it stop dead at the living-room level, he inset into the floor a toughened glass slab 3m x 4m - "Sure you can walk on it, my client light floods the swimming pool below. Sometimes the owners float in the pool looking up at the clouds.

"This is a house that can be enjoyed from a lot of different positions, without feeling like you're going into a barn," says It is a very calculated build-

ing in its orientation which makes the most of the site, not just for the views and light but for ecological reasons. All Mather's buildings have an energy conscious programme built into them which he describes as "no big deal, not particularly technological but good common

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through the core of the house, sign student accommodation at the University of East Anglia which has no central heating yet stays warm through winter - and has a waiting list, it's so popular - Mather saves his scorn for Hoovers it" - through which the a high-tech approach which uses energy-saving technology to make up for a loss elsewhere. "There's no point, for example, on a sonth-facing house putting photovoltaic solar cells on the roof to power the air conditioning." Instead, he super-insulates and ventilates houses. In this house, unwanted condensation from the pool heats the house via radiant panels underfloor. The pool is ozone treated, which means no chlorine smell. Rainwater is col-

Atelier Ten with the services and Doug McIntosh was his project architect.

Mather's hawkeye for detail is very evident - there isn't even a glazing bor at the right angles of the windows. Etched glass slats angled like louvres on the terrace capture the garden view and the light, while screening out the less appealing bits of neighbouring houses. A low glass wall doubles as a wind shield on the roof terrace.

But clients, as Frank Lloyd Wright once memorably informed us, have to have somewhere "to eat, seat and sleep. confound them". So now the owners have called in an interior decorator. Chester Jones. ex Colefax & Fowler, to turnish lected in a cistern in the garden the living space with his wife for irrigation of the roof ter-Sandy's rugs and a wooden races, as London water limes up and bookshelves. irrigation pipes. Atelier One There's lots of drama in this helped with the structure and house," says the client, "And I was frozen, paralysed when I first moved in. My husband's a minimalist so he prefers not to hang anything on the wall but I wanted to warm it up a little. Just the open-plan living and dining area."

But at roughly the same time as Mather was receiving his prize, a brilliant, white shell house designed by Ron Arad to be built on a site also in Hampstead was vetoed by Haringey Council. Both sites are leafy

es within walking distance of Hampstead Heath. But the residents confronting Arad's showmanship in their back yard were all up in arms at the idea of the new kid on the block. while Mather's are a friendly lot who all pitched up at the housewarming last Sunday. Both plots of land already had existing houses which had to be demoiished to make way for the newcomers. Arad had to take out an undistinguished vaguely Arts and Crafts house. Mather a

'There's a lot of drama in this house - I was frozen, paralysed when I first moved in'

Fifties garage with two flats for housekeeper and chauffeur who worked at an adjacent Georgian house with Luvtens additions. Planning permission had previously been given to a property speculator for a pair of neo-Georgian semis, But there the comparison stops. Arad had to win over Haringey.

It's enough to make the would-he residents of Arad's shell house want to sell their plot of land. But they are appealing to Haringey Council. Having read the planning officers' reports, Arad says the documentation which they presented to the planning committee was riddled with factual inaccuracies and created "an extremely misleading view both of our proposed new house and of the worth of the existing huilding". He is angered by the events.

"Haringey Council sent a clear message. While it is content to see the character and appearance of its conservation area eroded by over development, crass architecture and insensitive renovation and extension, it's not prepared to support architects or property owners that seek to improve its heritage." So maybe that familiar image of the shell house. first seen in August in The Independent, will make it off the computer screen and on to site one day. Let us hope so. Haringey Council hide their prejudices towards modern architecture behind their protection of a 1920s speculative building that even English Heritage could see no point in saving - and that they, at best, can describe only as "good enough". This isn't good enough. A review of planning committees is



The light-filled open-plan living and dining space

streets full of period-piece hous-Mather had Camden Council. long over-due.

For those who nose.

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@/+!=`!****!!! Road rage has got nothing on this ...

The advert promised the earth, the reality was a wonky PC and weeks spent trying to get some sense or satisfaction out of 'customer service'. Yes. Pru Irvine was in the grip of computer rage.

Road rage has nothing on this. This creeping hysteria transcends race, creed and colour and starts, I suspect, as you sign the standing order agreement.

To put the subject into context I should tell you how this came about. I was leaf-ing through the newspapers when I came

There's also no way of telling which
companies are good or bad at keeping their across a full-page ad saying, "I want it up and running

"A top class PC on my desk as soon as possible. That's in days not weeks. I haven't got time to worry about installation. I need someone to take care of all that for me. Naturally, I want to order it over the phone and it's got to have the latest software. I also want a full on-site warranty backed up with technical support from people who really know (and care and their products. It's a cut-throat husiabout) what they're doing ...

manufacturer - Compaq. I'll have that, I to drive. Everybody wants to kick the thought. It took about

two weeks to arrive. The fax didn't work Every time I talked and the keyhoard made funny marks like a "*U" when I wanted to someone new in a "%" and so on. I customer service phoned the help line because I've got a free they denied the year's customer service and support deal. existence of the Well, of course, it last person I'd didn't work - the integrated fax, to be prespoken to, and cise. I was pushed from department to departgave me their ment, from England to Scotland. The funpersonal guarantee was 1? The new machine also turned out ny thing was that every time I talked to some-

one new they denied when. I explained, with the minimal amount of hile, that I'd missed a work deadline, was about to miss another and had spent almost a day on the telephone.

The man with the new machine arrived. When I suggested he test the fax, he threw his hands above his little chest: "More than my joh's worth." He left, with the original machine still standing on the desk and the replacement still in its box. I can't tell you much more because I can feel the urge to slam the keyboard through the screen as the memory rekindles.

puter rage is attacking people of all ages agreed to some compensation - undecidand IQs. According to Martin Courtney ed as yet. of PC Advisor, it falls into two categories: "There's the personal kind when the machine won't do what it's supposed to do. That's very frustrating and can lead to swearing and hitting. Then there's the kind that develops when you can't get the support people out to help."

It's a case of "huyer heware" he says. These days computers are generally reli- utes since I last called Compaq.

able and the price ranges are very similar. But it's all in the small print. You have to look beyond the promised support contracts. Will they fix the machine on-site, replace it or take it away leaving you with nothing?

The hig companies are not as good as they promise," he says. "Many machines are overpriced because you're supposed to be paying for the hack-up support. The manufacturers need to pull their socks up. Instruction manuals and documentation used to he very good hut now costs have

support promises as there's never been any esearch done in this country. So people like me are at the mercy of the manufacturer's hype. I don't know whether I'm pleased or not to find I'm probably one

Clive Akass of the magazine Personal Computer World recognises the syndrome all too well, but just can't help feeling a wee hit sorry for both the manufacturers ness on tight margins, he says. "You don't And all that from the world's No 1 PC expect a car manufacturer to tell you how

screen in at some point but computers are very forgiving. They let you get it wrong more often than humans." Sweet. But I'm not seduced. I'm neither grateful to my PC for heing there nor do I want to cuddle it.

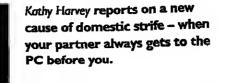
Because one computer is much like another people are differentiating on things like service. EXACTLY. So, where to have a fault. I wrote

the existence of the last person I'd spoken ing all the sorts things you'd expect someto. Each and every one gave me their per- one suffering from Computer Rage to say sonal guarantee. It was decided I should and was greeted by a resounding silence. have a replacement, but no one knew Some two weeks later, after a couple of wild telephone calls from me and a few feehle apologies from them, I get a call from the director of Compaq's Consumer Division, Ian Jackson.

Lots of sorry, sorry, sorry. You're the only complaint of this kind that I know about. We obviously need to do a lot more work on our back-up skills, we need to empower the people who deal direct with our customers, reconsider our engineer training programmes, etc. etc. "We want," said Mr Jackson, "to be in constant contact with our customers." In my case, of course, e succeeded on that one."

It was only when I had got right to the top that the empire swung into action. Compag's training manager and their technical support manager have spent nearly six hours trying to fix the demon in the black hox. Have they? No. I await yet

Excuse me, I must run now. It's 10 min-



It's Thursday afternoon and I have just returned from a trip to Waitrose with the intention of sneaking into the spare bedroom to finish doing my first year's accounts as a freelance. But as I survey the so-called Office Desk in the corner I am filled with a now familiar feeling - computer. My partner is home early and has got their first.

Before I succumbed to the lure of selfemployed home working I harely noticed the presence of my partner's constant office companion, plugged into a spare socket loading up its battery.

I assumed that the hours he spent each evening in front of the little square screen were a sad manifestation of Internet addiction. Now that we're fighting over the facilities, I have discovered he's whiling away the evenings on the laptop completing unfinished work. It's expected of him, and I am expected to put up with it.

Just before I left the BBC, it was sug-

special phone line and portable studio equipment installed so I could do interviews from the comfort of my own home - a facility most correspondents now have. Of course I might not like it, but how long could I go on refusing the offer? I had already suffered the embarrassment of doing a phone interview on the Child Support Agency with my own two-year-old providing authentic noises off from the adjoining room, and visions of

the future, with me locked in the bedroom broadcasting to lo- you are expected to keep to. cal radioland every day while my two children bayed for attention were enough to make me go freelance.

Broadcasting isn't the only profession where the division hetween home and office is heing blurred. Now that laptops can be used as "docking stations" and plugged into screens anywhere in the office, executives from the salesdesk to the board room are being expected to "hotdesk" around the building - or back home if nec-

David Tong, an organisational psychologist with ISR, an international consultancy specialising in researching employee opinion, says: "Technology has een invited in to the home but in some cases it has polluted it. People want to add value to what they do by taking work home, to swap the office for the spare hedroom should be able to trade an afternoon off

hours, fiddling with Powerpoint and printing out huge numbers of incomprehensihle slides for the next day's presentation. We're about to compromise with a

timetable and a spare computer but both of us are putting off the evil day when we give our five-year-old regular access to the world of information technology. The keyboard's never free - and we don't have any extra plug capacity to plug another terminal in even if we could afford it.

Says Dave Tong: "There should be an investment in the technology to support anyone expected to work from home, and it should be their choice. The advantage of hringing the office back home is a greater sense of control over how you work, hut if more and more of your own time is being taken up the pluses start to diminish. Work is habitual and sometimes it's difficult to take a break from it. The new working patterns are forcing us to make far more choices about time management."

Consultants, who specialise in helping professional people manage their careers, encourage clients to make an effort to halance their work and personal life more effectively. Their communications director, Jo Bond, is a former bomeworker gested to me that I might like to have a who opted to go back to office life and now tries to limit evening

I foresee a new

branch of family

therapy, designed

for couples torn

apart over the use

of the laptop and

lack of spare

the in-laws

work to important occasions. "The essential thing is to come to a personal contract with yourself and know what is acceptable." And, she says

there's no point trying to be visible all day in the office only to go home and slave over your laptop all night long. "If you bedroom space for the office and work from home you have to be clear with your immediate boss about the boundaries

Perhaps it's too late for all those eager thrusting professionals keen to show willing and embrace the information technology age in all its forms. Even before my partner invaded my space with his portable "docking station", the mobile phone was already hringing the joys of his office life into our living room - even invading hank holidays. I drew the line recently after an unpleasant incident near an M6 slip road when I was expected to force-feed our children Smarties while the other breadwinner in the family conducted a three-way conference call with the United States.

No doubt the IT specialists of the world e only too pleased to turn the average manager into a hizarre form of one man hand, traipsing across the countryside and the rewards are there for those who online to everything but a hit of peace. But want them, but it's not always easy for in- I foresee a new branch of family therapy, dividuals to control how much work they designed for couples torn apart by rows do." Quite. Surely those who have chosen over the use of the laptop and the lack of spare bedroom space for the in-laws. We are all homeworkers now -whether we like for an evening working at the computer. it or not. But some are working harder than But flexibility goes out of the window when others. And now my time's up - it's his turn your partner expects to muscle in for a few at the terminal.

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It's awfully easy for a heterosexual like myself to shriek: Stop! If you don't have to, don't open that can of worms you're thinking about. If you have one shred of heterosexuality in you, cling on to it for dear life' and make the most of it, hecause your life will be immeasurably easier.

Life is easier, after all, if you're in the majority of anything, and gays may be proud but often they have to work extremely hard to get to a point when they can take their sexuality for granted.

It's tempting, too, to say: if you have to give it a try, then do, but make it a one-night stand in a darkened chih. At least you'll know whether you enjoy sex with men at all; at least you won't be messing around with the feelings of another poor bloke who's after hearts and rings which you almost certainly can't offer him at this stage.

Perhaps, since Ben is so young, it might be worth his giving gayness a proper go. But let's say he discovers he is hisexual - whal then? He could find himself in real trouble. a sexual outcast, a member of no particular camp at all. Suspected by homosexuals, kept at arm's length by heterosexuals, a wandering sexual minstrel who will feel even more alone

and different than he ever has in his life. The problem is that if he's going to go in for a close loving relationship with either sex, unless it's agreed that he has flings on the side with anyone he wants, - highly unlikely - he will have to suppress one side of his sexuality in the end. A loving relationship with a guy? Well, if he wants to be faithful, and most of us do, he'll just have to lower their sexual energy into catching hutterflies.

Though Ben fancies women and wants

one day to be married and have children, since he was a teenager he's fancied men as well, though he's never done anything about it. After ringing a lonely hearts number he's found a man who'd like a caring relationship. Should he give it a go, even though he knows that one day he'll marry?

and boobs waggling at him across the dinner-table. And if he ends up with this mythical woman, then what? Should he tell her of his - to use one of those strange words that's never found except in connection with sex - proclivities? To tell her would be to make all kinds of non-PC assumptions - that because he has a gay side he'll automatically be promiscuous; that because he's gay and he won't be able to keep his hands off other men, they nught to take special care when it comes to strange diseases. But in an ideal world he should be just as faithful to his heterosexual partner as he should be to his homosexual lover. In other words, at one point in his life, if he really wants to team

his cyes when he sees a pair of lustrous lips

tremely tightly. Or, if not, be certain he never does anything about them. Being bisexual does not mean having your cake and eating it. It means, unless you're going to lead a promiscious life, having two cakes and cating only one. I think this is going to be extremely difficult after he's had

up with a member of one or other sex, he's

going to have to pack up all his other sex-

ual feelings in a box and sit on them ex-

a taste of the other. Perhaps I'll go back to my instinctive reaction and advise Ben to stick to women. We all have sexual fantasics and proclivities [that word again): it doesn't mean they have to be indulged. There was quite a lot to be said for those old hisexual Victorian husbands who just hustoned themselves up, decided to plump for marriage and threw the rest of

WHAT READERS SAY

I'd like to try being gay, and get married later

Go ahead - experiment Why constrain yourself at such a young age?

I am a gay man in my late twenties who has had a number of gay relationships. I am now in a stable relationship with a man 10 years my senior who has had

two lengthy marriages.

Maybe you are hisexual. If you want to explore the putential for a relationship with the guy you have already chatted to, why not? Which of us ever knows that a relationship is going to be for

ever when we embark on it? Just for the record, my partner says he has never been so happy. Whatever you decide, do it for you - and good luck!

Proceed with caution

There is never enough love in the world. If you have this chance to show it, then show it. Otherwise you could torture yourself for the rest of your twenties, as I did, and

never know if it would have worked or not.

But a word of caution - don't put all your eggs in one hasket. Talking to someone over the phone can he so different to meeting them in person. You may have to kiss a few frogs before you meet your prince. Tom Brooks

Trust your instincts

London SW9

If you have feelings towards other guys, act on them. Should you decide that a male lover is not really what you want, you won't have lost anything.

I have many gay, hisexual and, of course, beterosexual friends; those of them discovered their true sexuality later in life always say they wish they had played a more varied field much earlier.

How do you know your attentions will go to the opposite sex after a while? Many people find that they are sexually attracted to a person's personality, regardless of their gender. My advice is: get on the phone to this guy who wanted a caring relationship and see what happens. David Sunds

Respect others' feelings

The idea that everyone is firmly one way or the other is absurd. I have had loving relationships with both men and women, and so has my wife. I had a lot of confusion until I accepted my own feelings were justified.

Ben should look for happiness in a responsible and safe way safe in the emotional sense as well as any other. If he is in a relationship with a man, that man may well feel extremely insecure if Ben starts talking about women and having children. Some women will also react badly to being told that the ex is a man. However, it is an enormous drain emotionally to be dishonest, and the damage done to relationships when it all comes out is considerably worse. Peter Wyles London, N22

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Is it possible for me to change me a book of DIY, and this year my husband? He has never given he's said that now we're middleme a present that I enjuy. He unce gave me a mixer in its plas-Last year we had a new kitchen put in and he decided to make wards it. In the early days he gave Fiona

me a proper present at Christ- aged we're too old for Christmas mas. Or, rather, he's never given presents. I absolutely long for something to open from my hushand, I feel childish, hut it tic bag from the electrical shop. gets to me. It need only be a pot plant, or preferably something glittery, smelly or silly, 1 know it my Christmas present, even Christmas will be ruined by my though I had contributed to-resentment. What can I do?

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments to me at the Feutures Department, The Independeru'. I Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL (fax: 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday

And if you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

المعتناس الدعل

his knowledge, McLeish be-

lieved in getting down to the

essence of the piece. He wasn't

afraid of big ideas, but hated

woolliness and pretentiousness.

His work was punchy and some-

times provocative. He had an

enviable ability to sum up a

complicated concept with econ-

omy and wit. His books are in-

valuable to both specialists and

he cooking up some new

scheme or other; and his inter-

ests were eclectic. He wrote a

number of original plays and

filmscripts (including Orpheus

for Actors Touring Company in

1997 and Vice at the Vicarage for

Frankie Howerd in 1978),

adapted The Oresteia with Fred-

eric Raphael for BBC Television

(The Serpent's Tongue, 1979).

was working on a musical adap-

tation of Whisky Galore, read vo-

raciously and tended his garden.

If he had a fault it was that he

He was also an accom-

plished musician; a friend recalls

him playing at his wedding and

making an ordinary electric or-

gan sound like a baroque in-

strument. He had studied Music

under Edmund Rubbra, as well

as Classics, at Worcester Col-

lege, Oxford, and when he be-

came a teacher was forever

rescoring musical pieces for

plays and concerts and finding

ways of giving schoolchildren

the experience of the classics. If

he hadn't taken up teaching and

writing, he might well have

pursued his first love and

become a full-time composer.

ing teaching, mostly Classics,

first at Watford Grammar

School, then in Walsall and at

Bedales. Although he turned to

writing and translating full-

time in 1975, his commitment

to young people and a popular

readership was central to all his work. His background was

working-class Bradford and, al-

though not explicitly political, he

had radical and Quaker sym-

pathies and bated snohbery of

whatever kind. He used to scoff

After Oxford, McLeish start-

did too much.

McLeish always seemed to

the general reader.

19/OBITUARIES

Léon Poliakov

subject.

Leon Poliakov, historian: born Poliakov to write his first book underground bunker behind St Petersburg 25 November 1910; married (one son); died Paris 8 December 1997.

"I wanted to find out why certain people have it in for me." This was the answer the very great historiographer Leon Poliakov used to give when asked why he was devoting his life to a history of anti-Semitism.

He had been born in St Petersburg the day after Tolstoy's eath, and his parents named him after that great Russian. His father was a newspaper editor. The family fled to Berlin on the outbreak of the Bolshevist Revolution but, sensing early the rising tides of anti-Jewish sentiment; moved in 1924 to Paris, where Léon attended the Lycée Janson-de-Sailly and read law at the Faculté de Droit.

In 1933, Leon and his father started a brave but doomed project, a newspaper for German refugees, the anti-Hitler Pariser Tageblatt. During the Second World War, they joined the Resistance. When the Poliakovs returned to Paris at the Liberation in 1945, Leon became the go-founder of the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine, involving the collection of all records concerning the plight of Jews during the Second World War. This was to become one of the sources of his monumental five-volume Histoire de l'antisémitisme (1956-94), for which he was awarded the Prix Edmond Weil (1960) and the Prix du Judaisme

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Français (1981). As a leading authority on the subject, the government asked him to translate the archives of the Gestapo and to accompany the French delegation to the Nuremberg war criminal trials.

on the Nazi genocide and the Notre Dame, on the prow of the la haine ("The Breviary of Hatred"), for which no publisher could he found until the philosopher Raymond Aron, condemning French indifference to this embarrassing theme, finally persuaded Calmann-Lévy to publish it in 1951. This book is now considered the leading work of reference on the

In 1954, Poliakov was made director of research at the CNRS (Centre National de Recherche Scientifique) where he stayed until 1971, establishing a vast network of scholarly relationships all over the world. and acquiring disciples and friends in every walk of life. Among the important archives he was authorised to bring back to Paris were those of the leading Nazi Alfred Rosenberg, hanged in Nuremberg in 1946.

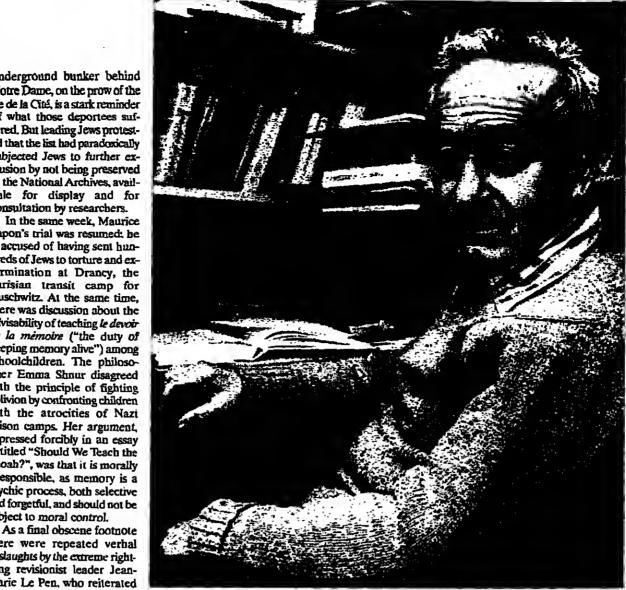
But in his patient study of these hundreds of thousands of documents, Léon Poliakov began to see that Nazi anti-Semitism had a very long history that stretched back into the mists of time, and he began to devote himself to researching its roots, from the time of Christ to 20th-century "suicidal Europe". One of the shorter texts that emerged from these labours was Le Mythe arven (1971), which analyses this most powerful of racist phantasms.

It is profoundly ironical that in the week when Leon Poliakov died President Jacques Chirac caused offence to Jewish deportation organisations by ordering the list of Jews hounded during the Occupation by both French and German military police to be deposited in the crypt of the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr. This of Europe". The chance accu-

"final solution", Le Bréviaire de Ile de la Cité, is a stark reminder of what those deportees suffered. But leading Jews protested that the list had paradoxically subjected Jews to further exclusion by not being preserved in the National Archives, available for display and for consultation by researchers.

> Papon's trial was resumed; be is accused of having sent hundreds of Jews to torture and extermination at Drancy, the Parisian transit camp for Auschwitz. At the same time, there was discussion about the advisability of teaching le devoir de la mémoire ("the duty of keeping memory alive") among schoolchildren. The philosopher Emma Shnur disagreed with the principle of fighting oblivion by confronting children with the atrocities of Nazi prison camps. Her argument. expressed forcibly in an essay entitled "Should We Teach the Shoah?", was that it is morally irresponsible, as memory is a psychic process, both selective and forgetful, and should not be subject to moral control.

there were repeated verhal onslaughts by the extreme rightwing revisionist leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who reiterated his imhecile rant that the gas chambers were only "a detail" in the history of the war - a pernicious falsehood for which he had already been condemned in March 1991. This latest outburst was particularly vile, addressed as it was to the former Waffen SS Franz Schoenhuber at a neo-Fascist rally in Munich during what Le Pen called his "homage to the German people who had been the martyrs



Poliakov: a passionately engaged witness to his times

time of Poliakov's death show that his history of anti-Semitism must never be allowed to die with its greatest exponent.

But Poliakov wrote other important works, notably the 1964 Les Banquiers juifs et Le Saint-Siège ("Jewish Bankers and the Holy See") hased on an early study, helped by Raymond Aron and Fernand Braudel, of the archives housed in the Ro-This harrowing experience led impressive cenotaph in an mulation of these events at the man ghetto. The two volumes examined the situation in

of Essai sur la causalité diabolique appeared between 1980 and 1985, on the origin of persecutions and their history from Mongol times to Leninism. Totalitarismes du 20me siècle followed in 1987, in which Poliakov emerged as one of the leaders in the discipline of the "history of mentalities" and demonstrated his passion for

interdisciplinary studies. He

Photograph: Popperfoto Israel since 1948 in his De

l'antisionisme à antisémitisme (1969) as a passionately engaged witness to his times. His huge bibliography includes his memoirs, L'Auberge des musiciens

As Léon Poliakov commented on his pursuit of anti-Semitism throughout the ages, with wry humour: "It was something of a personal matter." - James Kirkup

Kenneth McLeish

John Kenneth Tyrrell McLeish, writer, playwright and translator: born Glasgow 10 October 1940; married 1967 Valerie Heath (two sons); died Boston, Lincolnshire 28 November 1997.

Kenneth McLeish was the most widely respected and prolific translator of drama in Britain. His output included all 47 of the surviving classical Greek plays, most of Ibsen and Feydeau, as well as individual plays by Plautus, Molière, Jarry. Strindberg. Horvath and Labiche.

He was a brilliant linguist and, unusually nowadays, only translated from languages he knew fluently. He had learnt Latin and Greek as well as French at Bradford Grammar School and, after a cycling holiday round Scandinavia as a schoolboy, taught himself Swedish, Danish and Norwegian from books and dictionaries in the public library.

The energy, enthusiasm and sheer joy he brought to this were extraordinary. His translations were staged by companies ranging from the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National to the Gate, Cheek by Jowl and Actors Touring Company, and he took a passionate and practical interest in the productions. Three of the most successful were Deborah Warner's Electra for the RSC (1988), Katie Mitchell's Women of Troy at the Gate in London (1991) and my own Hedda Gabler for English Touring Theatre (1996).

McLeish was a man of the theatre and he understood that a good actor can work with the sharpest and most elliptical text. He trusted actors and they trusted him, Ibsen insisted that his realistic plays should be translated into everyday speech; in Ken McLeish he found his greatest exponent.

But he was as much polymath as polyglot, and he wrote and edited a formidable range of literary guides and cultural companions. His Theatre of Aristophanes (1980), although dismissed in some quarters as populist, was a milestone in the understanding and appreciation of Greek comedy. Other attention to detail. hooks include the encyclopaedic Penguin Companion to the Ans in the Twentieth Century (1985), and the ambitious and wide-ranging Bloomsbury Guide to Human Thought (1993), as well as his hugely influential Bloomsbury Good Reading Guide (1988) and Myth (1996). a tour of world mythologies. Next year will see the publication of his Guide to Greek Drama and The Pocket Guide to Shakespeare, which he and 1 wrote together for Faber.

But, for all of the breadth of



- Tom Vallance McLeish: eclectic

at the stuffiness of certain kinds of academic scholarship, but no one could fault the range and accuracy of his knowledge or his It was in 1965, when working on The Soldier's Tale for Focus Opera, that he met his wife Valerie, then a music teacher. They collaborated on many occasions, including their very successful Listeners' Guide to Classical Music (1986). They were a devoted couple and, after his first stroke in 1980, she tried to protect him from the inevitable strains of his energy and drive. They lived in a modest bouse in the Fens, where McLeish worked away on a hattered computer in a tiny

> He was a kind, modest man, big-hearted with a rough and ready sense of humour. He could argue his case forcefully. but always with a smile. His strength was that he passionately believed that the great works of the past should be communicated to the present in ways that neither patronised the reader nor compromised the original. In times when those ideals are too often ignored. Ken McLeish's was a hrave and brilliant voice.

study overlooking the garden.

- Stephen Unwin

William Alland

William Alland, actor and film producer: born Delmar, Delaware 4 March 1916; married (two sons, one, daughter); died Long Beach,

The former radio and screen actor William Alland produced several science-fiction films in the Fifties which are now regarded as classics, including The Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954) and This Island Earth (1955).

Earlier, as a member of Or-

son Welles's Mercury company, he appeared in many radio shows, and in Welles's enduring masterpiece Citizen Kane (1941) he played the shadowy reporter Jerry Thompson, whose quest to find the meaning of Kane's last word, "Rosebud", links the flashback sequences. Alland was also the dialogue director on the film, as well as imitating the voice of the famous March of Time commentator Westbrook Van Voorhees in the newsreel, intoning "This week, as it must to all men, death came to Charles Foster Kane."

Born in Delmar, Delaware. in 1916 and educated in Balti-... wi more, Alland acted in semi-



Alland: cult classics

professional groups before joining Welles's Mercury Theatre in 1936 as, according to Simon Callow's hiography of Welles, "actor, stage manager, gofer and pimp". John Houseman recounts that Alland, "a chinless shrimp of a boy with a hig voice", hung around the company day and night sweeping. prompting and doing menial jobs until he finally begged Welles to make him a member of the group, "offering to act, light, valet, pimp, clean the toilets, steal - anything at all, so long as he was allowed to fulfil his destiny", while another of Welles's acolytes, Richard Barr. later wrote: "Alland was treated almost as a personal slave, but in the Pacific. Though he acted by the stuntman Ben Chapman structed on the studio's old Bill seemed to enjoy the abuse."

Campbell Playhouse, and acted broadcasts, including Treasure Island, The Count of Monte Cristo, Heart of Darkness and Around the World in 80 Days (all 1938), Mutiny on the Bounty and Les Misérables (both 1939).

He became the group's stage manager, and appeared as Marullus in Caesar (adapted by Welles from Julius Caesar, 1937), the Serving Man in The Shoemaker's Holiday (1938). and Peto in Fire Kings (1939). The role of the reporter in Citizen Kane was conceived by Welles as a shadowy, half-seen character, representing the audience, and the features of the bespectacled Alland are constantly obscured by shade or contrastingly brilliant lighting. For the March of Time parody. Welles tried to hire Van Vorbees. but when asked for a prohibitive fee instead used Alland, who did a fine impersonation.

When the US entered the Second World War, Alland enlisted in the Air Force and flew more than 40 bombing missions

in two more Welles films, Mac-Alland was assistant director beth (1948, in which he was also heroine Julie Adams. on Mercury's radio series Mer- dialogue director], and F For cury Theatre of the Air and Fake (1973). Alland turned to ra- one of the reasons films like a mysterious planet which is dio writing after the war, winwith Welles on many of the ning the Peabody Award for the drama Doorway to Life.

In 1952 he joined Universal as a producer, and the following year had a hit with It Came From Ower Space, an adaptation of Ray Bradbury's story The Mereor, shot in 3-D and the first film in the science-fiction genre to be directed by Jack Arnold. with whom Alland would have a rewarding collaboration. Making fine use of its desert locale, the film promoted tolerance. featuring friendly aliens and photographing most of the alienhuman confrontations from the point of view of the visitors.

It was followed by The Creature from the Black Lagron. also shot in 3-D and now considered a landmark and a cult classic. With scientists the real villains of the piece (they destroy the world of the creature. who only wants to be left alone). it also featured a classic "beauty and the beast" theme as the creature (played in a rubberised suit by Ricou Browning for

the underwater sequences and

on land) is attracted to the

King Kong and The Creature from the Black Lagoon survive is there's a kind of poetry in the monster - a poignancy in his longing for love, for something heyond his scope in life". though she also confessed, "None of us took that picture very seriously when we were making it. We all thought it was kind of furny ... the creature's suit, though, was wonderful. Bud Westmore and Jack Kevan created something that would go down in cult history."

Two sequels followed, Revenge of the Creature (1955) and The Creature Walks Among Us (1956), Steven Spielberg has confessed to seeing these films several times during his youth and stated that they were a prime influence on his career. (In the first two films, the shots of the heroine swimming in the water as the creature watches from below patently prefigure Jans.)

This Island Earth (1955), produced by Alland and directed by Joseph Newman, was a lavish colour production with its maaw set, the Planet Metaluna, con-

Phantom of the Opera set, one of the higgest in Hollywood. Its tale She recently stated, "I think of scientists taken by force to aid falling into decay, is both imagmative and suspenseful. Its heroine, Faith Domergue, recalled recently that she initially balked at starring in a film in which the most important element would be special effects, but "my agent told me it had an interesting director who was very bright and a good script. It was beautifully done, amazing for the time it was made, and has attained more popularity than any of my other films. Whenever there's a science-fiction festival in Europe, my film is almost at the top of

> the roster." In 1961 Alland tried directing, with a mildly lurid story of juvenile delinquency, Look In .4m Window. Unable to make its tired story fresh or extract a convincing performance from the pop star Paul Anka as the troubled youngster driven to a life of crime by conditions at home, Alland returned permanently to film production, later successes including Andrew McLaglen's western with James Stewart,

The Rare Breed (1966).

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

LAWRENCE/LAY: Grandparents are thrilled to announce the early arrival of a daughter, Alexandra, for Simon and Suzanne on Wednesday 10 December, in Singapore.

DEATHS

O'HANK ON: Thomas Francis Finton, on 8 December 1997, aged 78, died peacefully at Southend Hospital after a inief illness. Thomas was the much loved husband of Angela Joy, belowed father of Richard, Mary, Kevin and Michèle; dearly loved by his mandabilitation pricess, and his grandchildren, nieces and nephews; indeed loved by all who knew him. He will be sadly missed for his knidness, sense of fim, courage and lovalty by all those whose lives have been rouched by him in England, Ire-land and Spain. Celebration of Life Service at Our Lady of Lourdes (RC) Church, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, 230pm Thursday II December, Fam-By Howers only. Donations in ficu to Frichard. Hospice co Richard O'Hanlon. 19 Bellairs Drive, Leigh-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS that The Dules of Edinburgh extent the de most SET Melecom at Presentals. Recognist of Vallet, The Coulout Tools, Prince Springs on Repair, The Coulous and The Duckers of hell Princes Signature in a stand. The Prince

raing of the Guard

Birthdays Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ash-

Staff, 78: Miss Anna Carteret, actres 55; Lord Ellion of Morpeth, former government minister, 77. Sir Robert Fellowes, private secretary to the Queen, 56; Mr David Gates, singer. 57; Miss Jermaine Jackson, rock singer, 43; Nr Andrew Lansley MP, 41; Miss Brenda Lee, rock singer, 53; Mr Cliff Michelmore, television pro-ducer and broadcaster, 78; Sir Wilfind Newton, former chairman, London Regional Transport, 69; Mr David Plowright, deputy chairman of Channel Four, 67; Mr Carlo Ponti, film director and producer, 84; Mr Patrick Reyntiens, designer and artist in stained glass, 72; Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn, author, 79; Miss Sarah Spencer, former General Secretary, National Council for Civil Liberties 45; Miss Sheila Walker, former Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides, 80; Mr Phil Woolas MP, 38.

more, former Chief of the Naval

Anniversaries

Births: Su David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope, 1781; Louis-Hector Berlioz, composer, 1803; Fiorello Henry La Guardia, mayor of New York City. Deaths: Bernardino Pinturicchio (Betto di Biago). painter, 1515; Colley Cibber, play wright and actor, 1757; Emilie Albertina Oire Schreiner, novelist, 1920. On this day: the first motor show opened in the Champs Elvsces, Paris, 1891: public buildings were burnt in Dublin, the damage being estimated at 23m. 1920; the Statute of Westminster came into effect, 1931; King George VT acceded to the

throne, 1936; Germany and Italy declared war on the US and the US Congress adopted a resolution recognising the state of war, 1941; the prototype of Concorde airliner was shown for the first time at Toulouse. 1968. Today is the Feast Day of St. Barsabas, St. Damasus L. Pope. St. Damiel the Stylite and Saints Fus-cianus, Victoricus and Gentianus.

Lectures

National Gallery: Ashok Roy, "Hol-bein (2): The Ambassadors and Hol-bein's Techniques as a Painter on Panet", Ipm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Saly Dormer, "Lords Lying High on their Graves: medieval tomb figures". National Portrait Gallery: Claire Tomalin, "Mary Wollstonecraft: the Amazon and the solitary walker.

University College London: Pro-fessor William Twining, "Imagining Bentham", 5.30pm. Execer University: Ros Argyle. "Global Harmony", 1.10pm (Great Hall); Sir Geoffrey Holland. "Lifelong Learning and the South West. 6.30pm (Newman Lecture Theatre. Peter Chalk Centre).

Dinners

Byron Society Mr John Morning OC addressed a dinner of the Byron Society last night at the Athenaeum Club, London SW!, on "The Summer of . Dormouse". Mr Geoffrey Bond. Chairman of the Society, presided and Lord Byron and Professor Sir Michael Bond also spoke.

LAW REPORT: 11 DECEMBER 1997

Parents cannot force doctors to resuscitate child

Where it was clear from the medical evidence that it was in the best interests of a child suffering from a fatal disease not to offer treatment other than palliative care, the court should authorise such treatment by the child's doctors, despite the fact that the parents did not consent to such a course.

Re C. A Nation Withdrawal of Lifesaving Treatmenty, Farnd- Christian (Sir Stephen Brown, President) 18

The court granted a declaration giving leave to doctors treating a 16-month-old child suffering from spinal muscular atrophy. type I, to withdraw artificial ventilation; not to resuscitate in the event of respiratory arrest; and to give palliative care to ease her suffering and permit her life to end peacefully and with dignity, such treatment being within her best interests.

Angus Monn (Hempsons) for the hospital trust; Lindser Rushner QC (Alexander Harris) for the parents: Michael Nicholls isolicitor of the Official Solicitor's Department) as

Sir Stephen Brown, P. said that the child, who was born in July 1995 with a fatal disease called spinul muscular atrophy. type I ISMA 1), had been in hospital since October on intermitteni positive pressure ventilation, which was designed to support her own breathing. She was seriously disabled, and was in what her doctor described as a "no chance" situation.

A "no chance" situation was defined as one "where the child has such severe disease that life-sustaining treatment simply delays death without significant alleviation of suffering. Medical treatment in this situation may thus he deemed inappropriate." The consultant paediatric

ble for the child's care considered that her case was so grave that it was not in her best interests that she should be further ventilated. He considered that, when ventilation was withdrawn, it should not be reinstituted in the event of a further respiratory arrest. It was his view that such treatment would subject her to further suffering without conferring any benefit.

responsible religious on bodox Jews. They loved their child and could not bring themselves to face what seemed to be her inevitable future. They did not believe that it was within their religious tenets to contemplate the possibility of indirectly shortening life, even if that was not the purpose of the course which the doctors believed to be appropriate in order to spare her further suffering.

neurologist who was responsi-The parents had, accordingly, been unable to consent to the course of treatment recommended by the doctors. They wanted to be assured that should the child suffer further respiratory relapse or arrest she would be put hack onto ventilation. The doctors had sought advice from another consultant paediatric neurologist, whose opinion entirely supported that of the doctor treating the child. The parents had also sought independent medical advice The parents were highly from two doctors, both of

> child's best interests. Since the doctors and the to obtain the parents' consent to the course they wished to follow they had applied to the court for an order. The medical evidence was not in dispute. The views of the parents had been set out in an affidavit sworn by the mother. It was a

ventitiation was not in the

very moving document, and his Lordship had the very greatest sympathy for the unfortunate parents. It was quite clear from the

authorities that the court could not require a doctor to undertake a course of treatment which he was unwilling to undertake, as was the desire of the parents in the present case. There was no doubt on the evidence that it was in the child's best interests that she be taken off ventilation, and that it should not be restored if she whom had said that further suffered a further respiratory arrest. Whilst the sanctity of life was vitally important, the paramount consideration was the hospital trust had been unable best interests of the child. His Lordship was very conscious of the grave responsibility which rested not only upon the doctors but also on the court, but believed that he should assent to the course proposed by the hospital trust.

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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Le problem: Europe needs leadership, not a petty squabble



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The French for club is le club. Our word. You invented clubs, said Prime Minister Lionel Jospin the other day, and should know how they work. Go and ask those gents loitering on Pall Mall: if you aren't a member, you can't come in. The French position on British membership of the committee handling the Single Currency (Euro-X) is definite, obvious and completely justified. The other potential joiners of next May may be less upfront than the French, their finance ministers more silver-tongued than finance minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn (who with French sauciness compared the British attitude to that of a voyeur trying to get into a married couple's bedroom) hut they are obliged to share the view. If the United Kingdom won't join, it has no husiness on the steering committee.

Of course Gordon Brown is right: the creation of a single currency will have immediate and specific consequences for the British economy, especially its financial

sector. In the interests of stability, those need to be discussed, whether in Euro X with the British attending by invitation. or in Ecosin, the regular seminar of sinance ministers. But Britain really cannot have it both ways. The official Labour position, which we applauded is that after the euro is up and running the British government will conduct a review. If it decides in favour of membership it will consult the British people in a referendum. Until popular assent is given. Britain stands by choice on the outside. It would be somewhat inside uut if we were allowed to be outside in.

So what is it Gordon Brown wants? Labour's greatest task is going to be convincing a sceptical public in Britain. It is not at all clear how membership of esoteric committees will help that. Meanwhile Tony Blair's scurrying round behind the back of the French in a bid to secure a different decision at next weekend's Euro summit smacks of the had old days of Thatcher-Major amateurism in Eurodiplomacy. The French and the Germans may disagree about who heads the European Monetary Institute, and M Jospin may be putting careful distance between himself and the German Chancellor (who could lose power next year). but the Franco-German axis remains immune to Blairite blandishments.

The Government is ill-advised to prosecute this campaign against rejection. One reason is that there is a danger of making a profound mistake about the likely future shape of the European Union. It may be politically incorrect to say so tin Paris and Brussels as well as London) but the era of "variable geomerry" is already with us. The single currency, defence co-operation and the Schengen Agreement on border traffic and controls are three conspicuous examples. Europe is being built at different speeds in north and south, and, shortly, east and west. We cannot fail to

see the problems of creating a core and concentric Europe that are presented by the accession of the eastern European candidates.

There is a very strong case for the EU to secure Europe in a geopolitical sense by taking in the Czech Republic, Poland and the Baltic States. But their immediare accession is impossible, inconceivable without structural reform which has not even yet begun. Structural reform is the jargon: the reality will be cutting payments to farmers across Europe, including Wales, and swingeing reductions in the regional aid programme, which the Spanish and Portuguese, let alone local politicians in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, do not like one little bit.

But where, in this great battle of institutions and attitudes, is New Lahoor? Tony Blair, as Lionel Jospin put it in crisp but unattractive franglais, is "un newcomer". However attractive a figure our Prime Minister cuts among the social de-

mocrats in Rome, Bonn and Paris, his stock of political capital is not infinite. He needs to use it wisely and well, and save most of it for his domestic audience. As Dominique Moisi pointed out the other day, the need to embed Europe in the hearts and minds of real Europeans grows, as the problems of reform and expansion are taken up.

Under Labour, Britain could and shoold lead in Europe. It could and should forge a new path for Britain by explaining why onion is good for Britain, why membership of the Union will aid the sometimes painful adjustment of regions and economies, why we need to reach out to the former Communist countries of the East and assist their necessarily long-term processes of reconstruction. That is what Gordon Brown and Tony Blair should he aboot, not maundering ineffectually about membership of a Euro-money club from which we have, frankly, excluded ourselves.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor und include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edued for length and clarity.

LETTERS

HARRIET HARMAN'S EGO BREAKS FREE FROM IT'S MOORINGS

ROH and the press

Sir: David Lister cites as evidence of his objectivity in reporting the aris (Media, 8 December) his revelation that "the Royal Opera House was paying Sir Jeremy Isaacs for a year after he left". There's a snag. It is not true.

My contract was to end at end September 1997, my 65th birthday. The board asked me to make way for a new chief executive at end December 1996. In compensation I received a modest lump sum and a contribution to my pension, in all a fair bit less than a year's salary. Shameful? I think not.

As for the journalistic rigour uf which David Lister makes much, it is in short supply. No newspaper, at the time of the ROH lottery award hoo-hah, pointed uut that, even at £78.5m, it was only a proportion of the total arts allocation in one year and a minor proportion over five years, and that four other exactly equal streams of funding were on tap.

No newspaper ever cited average ticket prices at ROH, only the exceptional top.

Most importantly, no newspaper, in my nine years at ROH. ever troubled systematically to compare our funding base with any European comparator, or with the Mct in New York.

The select committee, schizophrenically, has just pointed two contrary ways forward for ROH - government control or privatisation. The first course. in Germany, involves 100 per cent funding, with carnings remitted; the second, at the Met, an endowment of nearly \$150m. If only they could have read all about it.

I agree with John Tusa that the arts in Britain, in difficult financial straits, have not been well served by the press. Sir JEREMY ISAACS

London WC: The writer was general director of the Royal Opera House.

Angry lone parents

Sir: Like many people, I voted Labour in the expectation of a fairer deal for all members of society and now feel a hitter sense of betrayal that some of the poorest families in Britain are to be penalised further by cuts in henefits.

Tony Blair and Harriet Harman have used the argument

that many single mothers would like to work. The difficulty of finding reasonably paid employment which also allows for the care of a family has been ig-

nored. Many of the jobs that women do are very low paid, part time and insecure. In such jobs, it is not possible to be financially independent, whether or not subsidised childcare is available. For women with qualifications and professional experience it is difficult, as a lone

parent, to accept that it is in your child's best interests for you to take a full-time job which means you do not spend any time with your six-year-old from a Sunday evening to the following Saturday morning.

I have experienced rejection at interview, solely on the grounds of my having a child. from two employers openly concerned that my role as a mother meant that I could not be as committed to their interests as a working father. In both cases this was before I let

I resent the implication that caring for a child is some sort of hobby that should be fitted around an apparently more valuable role as an employee. Until the structure of "fulltime" working hours starts to take account of the need to hring up a family it is iniquitous to cut benefits and preach to single mothers that they should be out earning for their fami-

RACHEL WHITE Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Sir: The divorce statistics show that single mothers are not the dizzy young things that this and the last government would like to portray us as. Most nf us are deeply committed to the wellbeing of our children.

The Child Support Agency has failed to get the fathers of these children to support them adequately, so now this govcriment is going for us mothers. Off our backsides and out them know I am a lone parent. to work - and we get to leave

our children with strangers for most of the day. If you haven't got a husband to look after you. the state is going to hring up your kids for you, in the form of nursery places, after-school care, and summer schools. LINDA CAIRNES Congleton, Cheshire

> Sir: The Government's decision to press ahead with Tory cuts in income support for lone parent families is unnecessary and against the grain of Labour's commendable Welfare to Work programme. When the proposed measures of job creation and childcare provision work through, backed by a decent minimum wage, then lone parents will for the first time have genuine opportunities to work to support their families. But it will be at least two years before these policies are oper-

ating effectively. TOM SIBLEY Chair, Hounslow South Labour Party

Commons oath

Sir. Bert Ward (letters, 9 December) is probably right that the elected Sinn Fein MPs won't take up their seats even if the current Commons oath were changed. But we should still change it, for

two unrelated reasons. First, it is the right thing, in a pluralist society, to have oaths for public service which are as

neutral as possible. Second, a willingness to modemise, without surrendering democratic principle, strips away the many implausible excuses used by Messrs Adams and McGuinness. And there is a practical example which the Government has initiated in relation to the Northern Ireland police service. The present RUC oath calls on new constables to promise to "well and truly serve" the Sovereign. Under the Scottish model favoured by the Govcrument, the declaration would simply read: "I hereby do

solemnly and sincerely and tru-

by declare and affirm that I will versal PR? ("Politics in profaithfully discharge the duries of the office of Constable."

This would be a reasonable compromise that would apply to all MPs and undercut Sinn Fein's exploitation of the matter. HARRY BARNES MP (Derbyshire North East, Lab) Hause of Commons

Sir: Some years ago, the oath Canadian MPs must take was changed by simply omitting the phrase "and her heirs and successors". The result is an oath of personal allegiance to the Head of State, namely Queen Elizabeth II, rather than to the principle of a hereditary monarchy. This compromise has been judged acceptable by nationalist MPs from Quehec, and perhaps ought to be considered here. JEFFREY M EGGER

Sir: Why not combine the virtues of the first-past-thepost system with a truly uni-

Deadly luggage

Sir, The problem of carry-on luggage on aircraft is not unique to the USA (report, 2 December), in the UK, carry-on limits are frequently ignored by passengers and airline staff.

If the aviation community were serious about cahin safety, carry-on luggage would be restricted to small hand hags and laptop computers only. Luggage in the cabin often becomes unguided missiles, not only in emergency landings but during heavy turbulence. In emergencies passengers have heen known to delay their egress by trying to retrieve their precious cahin luggage. Professor E R GALEA Fire Safety Engineering Group University of Greenwich. London SE18

Cost of healthy food

Sir. Is there a distinction between what is politically correct environmentally and politically correct in health terms? Surely not ("Junk food scores on energy

efficiency", 4 December). Junk food provides empty calories and the consumer and taxpayer pays more in chronic health costs. The intensive. monoculture methods often used to produce the raw materials can pollote the environ-

ment and damage biodiversity. The main reason why healthier food currently does use more energy is packaging and transport costs; 30 per cent of the freight on our roads is foodstuffs. Local and shorter production chains are better all round. Reducing transport and providing fresher foods is essential on both health and environmental grounds. VICKI HIRD

Sustainable Agriculture Food and Environment Alliance London N1

Empty rights

portion kills passion", 8 De-

ten years looking at alternatives

to the present system and at the

same time looking to change

the composition of the House

of Lords, why not keep the pre-

sent form of voting to elect the

House of Commons, then take

the countrywide vote in that

election as a basis for the com-

position of the second cham-

ber? So neat, So cost-effective.

Sir: Last week whilst driving on

the M5 north of Bristol, I over-

took an Intercity 125. The train

in question was being trans-

ported by lorry. Is this what is

meant by "an integrated trans-

port policy" or have the rail

companies come to accept that

it is no longer quicker by rail?

STEVE BRICKLE

Road or rail

Dr N P MEYER

Rather than spend the next

cember.)

Sir: The Government's attempt to incorporate the European f Convention on Human Rights * into British law suggests the question, when will it introduce legislation that requires people to accept their human responsihilities? Human rights are of no value if complementary responsibilities are ignored. When will Britain and the West face up to this truth? ANDREW BOWDLER

Pokhara, Nepal

Just the job: careers advice for budding hunt saboteurs, Spice Girls managers, train drivers ...



MILES KINGTON Today's guest expert was to have been Earl Spencer, who was due to offer advice on your emotional and marital

Unfortunately, negotiations about his

fee broke down, and so instead I am glad 10 welcome Kevin Tiller, Professor of Employment Studies at Milton Keynes University, who is going to offer careers advice to younger readers. All yours, Prof! I would like to be a journalist but I just don't know if I have got what it takes in

this modern, competitive world. Professor Tiller writes: OK, let's try a simple little test. What you have to do is think up a headline for a piece of news. Here's the news. Chris Evans buys up

Virgin Radio. Right, what's the headline? Unmmmm ... "Chris Evous Buys Up Virgin Radio"? Professor Tiller writes: Oh, come on.

lad! You can do better than that!

Ummmmm - I know! "Yes, it's Virgin-

ger Radio/" Professor Tiller writes: Excellent, Just what The Sun chose. You'll go far. And

the next? How do I set about being manager of the Spice Girls?

Professor Tiller writes: Hurry, hurry. hurry, while stocks last! Actually, if you want my advice, it would be much better to be ex-manager of the Spice Girls. Next!

How do I set about becoming a full-time huns saboteur? Whenever I have gone ofter a meet, I have always enjoyed the camaraderie of the hunt, and the excitement of the chase, and I would like to devote more

Professor Tiller writes: Sadly, it is quite possible that Parliament may soon decide to ban hunting with dogs altogether, which will spell the end of the noble calling of

the hunt saboteur, and turn loose on the countryside hundreds of unemployed and aimless ex-saboteurs. It would be a tragedy. I believe there are plans afoot to retrain them as angling saboteurs, though I personally would feel that snipping fishing lines in half and tipping tins of maggots into the water would not have the same thrill and romance as old-style

hunt sabotage. I would like to join the BBC and make programmes. How do I set about this?

Professor Tiller writes: I am not sure that the BBC is recruiting programme makers any more. It might be safer to join the BBC and become one of the men or women who scrutinise incoming programme proposals from independent producers.

Professor Tiller writes: Because then,

write back to the independent producer and say that although it is a good idea, the BBC are, alas, already working on a very similar project.

But what if they aren't? Professor Tiller writes: Oh, they always are. Or if they aren't, they very snon will

I would like to be a train driver when I

Professor Tiller writes: You won't when you grow op. Next!

I would like to be the next Chris Evans. Professor Tiller writes: See answer to last question. Next!

I would like to be the daughter of a wellknown agony uunt who decides to saurise the pretensions of her mother's craft by going missing and precipitating a police search costing tens of thousands of pounds and then turning up days later perfectly safe if you spot a really good idea, you can und well, with the mother covering up her

confusion by saying: "Oh, we knew she could look after herself all along," which rather begs the question of why mother alened the police in the first place ...

Professor Tiller writes: You're living in a fantasy world. Things like this don't happen. Snap out of it. woman! Now, one last question, picase!

When I grow up, I would like to be the man whose job it is to chase round the world after Richard Brunson's big balloon when it goes off without him, or indeed without arwone on board at all, and I would chase it in my helicopter till I caught up with it and then I would radio back: "Balloon at 30,000ft over Kenya, heading out Indian

Ocean or 80 knots, please advise!" Professor Tiller writes: Thank goodness someone has gut a practical, realistic game plan at last. You should do well. Tomorrow: Grand Competition! Win

one of Earl Spencer's old girlfriends!!

One promise that Labour really ought to break



TOYNBEE **CUTTING NHS** WAITING LISTS

'Waiting lists will be shorter." That's what Labour promised in election posters up and down the land. Those whn know about these things shook their heads: expensive, difficult and probably wrong. But there it is, Tony Blair is the promise-keeper and the five pledges will be kept, even if it distorts NHS spending and undermines some of this week's excellent NHS White Paper. Even if it means treating the wrong people for the wrong reasons, for this is a political not a medical imperative.

What is the absolute minimum that pledge commits them do? Could they just reduce the number of people waiting over a year? After all, if millions are on the list it doesn't matter. What people care about is how long they wait. But no, apparently that won't do. The politicians say the pledge means there must be fewer people on the tntal list by the next election.

Taking the pulse of the NHS is well nigh impossible. For every story of heroic new treatments, there are matching anecdates of hospitals running short of sheets, overstretched nurses in under-staffed wards and exhausted junior doctors doing operations way past their bedtime and their competence. How are we to tell if things are getting hetter or worse, overall?

The only easy measure every news editor and politician understands is the numher of patients on the waiting list, although it may reveal little of importance, Mightn't people rather wait longer for better treatment, supposing that was a choice? The best aspect of this week's White Paper was the new drive towards excellence. The National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) will insist on national standards, making sure that all doctors know and use the best treatments. Currently standards vary frighteningly, with some surgeons killing five or six times mure than others. (How NICE forces doctors to obey the standard, we don't yet know but at least they'll have national authority

word, striking out useless and outdated treat- 1200 identical ones. Usually this is not laziments, pushing for the best. But measuring ness, but management ineptitude and failthe success of that process and presenting—ure to rationalise. (Though managers might it in a way everyune can understand will be difficult. It will also be a lot harder to achieve if too much money and attention is squandered on waiting list reductions.

Here's the size of the problem: At the start of the NHS in 1948 there were 500,000 people on the waiting list, rising ineluctably upwards to over a million now. There have been occasional slight dips, but even in years when the Tories made most effort to clear out defunct old lists - which included the dead, those who'd already been treated or those who no longer wanted treatment - the figures barely changed. Even when they introduced their market reforms with a vast injection of cash, the list went up. Through super-human efforts, with list-busting hud-

gets and expensive initiatives, Clark and Bottomley did manage to clear out everyone waiting over two years, which was quite an achievement. But total numbers still rose.

Getting total numbers down has eluded everyone so far. Lists keep rising because there are new treatments in queue for and more old people who need more operations. Patients are more demanding now, less patient. And whenever local waiting lists shrink, GPs just refer more patients and fill them up again. The explosion of day-surgery units should mean lower waiting lists, but this

appears to have created more demand. Dr Alastair Lack in Salisbury has pioneered a new priority waiting list system, awarding patients points on four scales: they get points for their rate of deterioration (so cancer scores high), for the pain they suffer, for their level of disability, and for time already spent waiting. So time is only one factor. Without significant points on the other measures, some minor conditions might never be treated and the patient would be warned accordingly.

But it hasn't worked. The hospital wanted to hring it in, but found they couldn't. Why not? Because their contracts with local health authorities demanded everyone on the list be treated within one year. That meant that firefighting was all they could do - treating only emergencies and long waiters, with no money to treat anyone else. So a one year varicose vein has to be treated before someone in agony in a wheelchair for need of a new hip. The hips never get treated until they hit the one year deadline. The Government has now tied its hands in the same way by demanding reduced lists and not prioritising treatments. (Prinritising sounds dangerously like rationing to the politicians.)

A national list-huster has been appointed, Stephen Day, whn worked miracles in the West Midlands. However, he spent £30m in one region alone, while the Goverament has allocated just £5 m for pilot schemes for the whole country. So how is he going to do it? He's blunt: "It can't be done without money". He only managed what he calls "tail-gunning" the back end of his list by using extra money, to ensure the priorities of the list were not distorted, So he's putting systems in place now, hoping for more money in two years.

And there is plenty that can be done. Consultants are the key to it all, because they control the lists, but getting control of them has eluded every government. Here the new Clinical Effectiveness team will be monitoring how well they do; if the worst surgeons improved, there'd be fewer re-admissions for bungles and infections and so lower waiting lists. Consultants are expensive but often their time is wasted; some orthopedic surgeons do just one or two operating lists n week while others do four. Some ENT consultants do Clinical effectiveness is the new watch- only 300 operations a year while others do ask why so many surgeons take a full day off the NHS for private practice, for only one eleventh less salary?)

If everything in the while paper worked miraculously to plan, in theory waiting lists should come down, simply through hetter practice. But history suggests otherwise. Far more likely that as the next election approaches, there will be another panic "waiting-list initiative". Money will be bunged at tailgunning the lists, draining resources from geriatrics or mental health - which can't he measured except in schizophrenic murders. So when Blair mounts the podium to boast he's kept his promise, it may be yet another vow that might have been better honoured in the hreach.

I felt like I was surrounded by a dozen abseiling homunculi

JOHN WALSH



It's a rite of passage you hear about, like some Nichelung sacrifice in the forests of Westphalia, hut never imagine you'll actually go through yourself. And then you get the call. The Fact-Checking department of The New Yorker magazine is on your case and there's no escape.

This legendary throng of literal-minded obsessives are the Stormtroopers of the sub-editorial universe. They take the verification of detail to frankly barmy extremes. Their inquiries are of a kind unknown in British journalistic circles. Most subeditors I've known on newspapers in the past (not The Independent, of course, by oo means, absolutely not) lend to say, "John - this piece of yours. Are there any, you know, true bits in it? Oh never mind ..." and leave it at that. On The New Yorker, if you've written, "He shook his head," they ask you if it was up and down or from side to side. I had a dozen conversations with three of them,

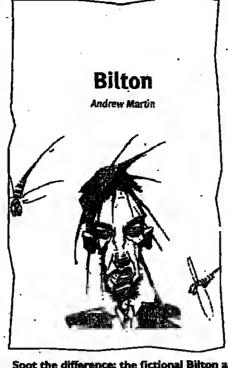
around me. By the end I felt like John Goodman, surrounded by a dozen abseiling homunculi in

I'd written an article about an American writer who had once studied at Harvard, where, he'd tald me, "Bob Dylan came. with a 12-string guitar and played at our freshman mixer." The Fact Checkers pounced. Bob Dylan, as far as they could establish, never played a 12-string guitar. Couldn't they just take the writer's word for it? Hahl Mocking laughter echoed down the telephone. How do you know (I asked) he didn't play one just one evening in his life? The guitar problem hung in the air, but another inquiry reared its head. The chap in my article had said something about his search for identity when young - how "You look at the five hillion people in the world and think, 'Where's my peer said Fact Checker No 2, but at the time this man looked at the world, the population of the globe was actually three million. My dear chap, I said, he didn't actually stand on some high rock and count the bloody ... but it was too late. We'd moved on to the important crux of whether the bloke's address in north London was in Camden or Kentish Town, and whether the hamsters in his bathroom really are, or were, Russian.

Then Fact Checker No 3 came on the line. "About the Dylan guitar thing. We've talked to a Dylan expert. No, he didn't ever actually play a 12-string. But in 1963 he was touring with a man who owned a 12string, so he could have been bulding it for him"

Last year, we had Amanda Craig's sparkling roman-à-clef, A Vicious Circle, in which the worlds of literary journalism and Groncho Club bonviveurisme were amusingly trashed. One journalist objected so much to a disobliging fictional portrait of himself that he threatened legal sanctions and had the book withdrawn. It was later re-written and brought out by another publisher. This year has been as increasingly hizarre inquiries a little short on media novels in about tiny little fact-ettes and which the nighthawks of Soho huge irrelevancies rained down and the Cobden Club can see





Spot the difference: the fictional Bilton and Will Self



their lovely features hideously distorted. But making some amends in the New Year is Andrew Martin, a feature writer on the Evening Standard's mag-

His first novel, Bilton, is a droll tale of a parallel newspaper universe, in which the eponymous Martyn B, a difficult, oddly featured, howlingly leftwing journalist who perpetrates a physical attack on the British prime minister in public one day and rises in consequence on a fountain of transmedial celebrity. Readers will have little trouble identifying the prototypes of Grass, the green wellie magazine, or Hatstand, the rightwing weekly with its Georgian front door, its garden parties and charismatic editor, Grey Fauntleroy; or Rupert Granger, the aggressive TV current affairs inquisitor ("Let's turn to what I suppose I must call your economic policy"); or Little Willie Meltchitt, the volatile Chief Editor in Chief [sic] of The New Globe, or even General

Zubarov, a renegade Zhirinovsky-like Russian dictator. Mr Martin would, I'm sure, argue that his characters are not meant to correspond with real- her"). And would it chart, with life people (his fictional Prime or without Latin code, the is a winningly idiotic creation with no apparent correlative at the Commons) but some of his hits are strikingly direct ones. Like Bilton himself, the chap who goes from disgrace to TV stardom in a matter of weeks. Did Mr Martio know when he wrote the book that Mr William Self (a ringer, you must agree, for the jacket illustration) was going to move from front-page tabloid obloquy to having his own chat show in eight months?

Like everyone else, parent or otherwise, I was relieved when Anne Atkins's daughter Lara was found unharmed after her

chilly adventures in Hammersmith Broadway. And I was very moved to read her bleak account of them, alongside her mother's harrowing record of waiting by the phone for the news. But I'd still love to get my hands on the daughter's diary,

the one of which we know one single entry: "Hodie, I depart." Would it tell us various things we would like to know? Like whether Lara, at 12, had outgrown the soubriquet "Bink" (or "Little, helpless, dotty Bink", in her mother's expanded formulation) and had got over the experience of being coerced into joining a super-sophisticated girls' school? Would it record her disenchantment with a religious household where the first thing you do when your daughter disappears is ring your "prayer partner" and organise prayer chain"?

Would it say why Lara refused to have pocket money, and whether it had anything to do with her mother's curious insistence on its importance ("I have made her well aware of what it has meant in terms of money and manpower to have 100 policemen searching for ing, Pulham household of madcap Christians might induce any awkward pre-teenager "to hide from people so they wouldn't find me"?

Next year is, of course, the hicentenary of Lyrical Ballads, Prelude to fill it."

that seminal work of English Romanticism, and the airwayes will be alive with anniversary tributes to its co-authors, Wordsworth and Coleridge, the Wallace and Gromit of the

Lake Poets. Not all the available media have greeted the prospect with delight, however. One of the commissioning editors at Radio 4 was approached the other day by a producer who suggested that Wordsworth's massive, multi-volume epic poem of



enough for Radio 4

The Prelude, might be adapted for the Classic Serial slot on Sundays, "You do know, don't you, that this is a half-hour slul?" replied the editor scomfully. "I think we'll need something more substantial than a

LOVERS?

Animal

Hungry and frightened, crying piteously for his mother, four-week-old Tiny was barely alive when he was brought to The Blue Cross. But we dido't give up. For weeks our dedicared staff fed the little kitten every two hours until he

Dumped in a rubbish bin and left to die...

just 12 a month could save him

At last he was safe. Because The Blue Cross promise never to destroy a healthy animal just because it has no home.

In save the lives of unwanted pers like Tiny, we rely no the generosity of real animal lovers. Please fill in the enupon

	below in find out how you can help.
	FREE Blue Cross Illustrated three tinus a year, when you pledge to help the animals
	Please send me more information about how I can help animals like Tiny by making a gift to The Blue Cross. Name 'Mr. MrcMast
	Address
'	Postcode
	Send for The Blue Cross, Prespose, Roum 905C, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4BR.
	- b

Put diplomatic niceties aside and tell Turkey the truth



CORNWELL MEMBERSHIP OF THE EU

It is, to borrow the phrase a bemused Warren Christopher. the former US Secretary of State, once used at the height of the Bosnia crisis, Europe's problem from hell." And this week, foursquare and inescapable, the problem once more confronts the European Union summitteers gathered in Luxembourg: What to do about Turkey, the EU's eternally disappointed aspirant?

This time the stakes are gher than ever. A new round of enlargement negotiations is about to begin, and once again Turkey's number has not come

selected candidates, nor even in the second group of five Eastern European countries who have been promised talks later. That alone was galling enough. Adding insult to injury however, the number of Cyprus did come up. No wander the Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz has been in London warning Tony Blair that this was a "decisive moment" in his country's relations with Europe. No more "third rate treatment": Turkey wanted its own firm undertakings - or else. Such is the mess that the EU leaders are having second thuughts about a dinner invitation extended to Mr Yilmaz after the summit. Why dine together if you have anthing to

talk about? Which brings to mind the celebrated definition of a diplomat as upposed to a lady: When a diplomat says yes he means maybe, when he says maybe he means no, and if he says no he ain't no diplomat (for the definitium of the lady, reverse "Yes" and "No" throughout). Well, that is more or less the diplomatic dance the EU has heen leading Turkey for decades, Indeed, it was back in 1963 that Turkey first conclud-

up: not in the first group of six ed an association agreement with the then European Econamic Community, the same veur General de Gaulle delivered his first Non to British membership (but then the General never was a diplomat). Talk to European officials in

private and they say there's ab-

solutely nn prospect of Turkey joining in the foreseeable future. But that's not quite how it's come nut in diplomatese. The goal now is "rapprochement". Turkey, it is said, is subject to the same conditions as every one else, and the country "remains on track". But on track to what, and when? Clearly a new gambit was required. and the diplomats duly produced one. Assuming approval in Luxembourg, it will be called the European Conference. It will consist of regular summit meetings of the 15 current EU members, the 11 aspirants, and Turkey - with the undeclared hut primary purpose of keeping the Turks quiet. Unfortunately, without a guarantee that it will be admitted as a future candidate, Ankara says it is not interested.

In short, the diplomats may have outsmarted themselves. For with a little more plainspeaking earlier, the contortions out, under intense pressure chimera of a hi-zonal federa-

would probably not have been necessary. The truth is that Turkey, for all its Westernisation, is still an impossible mouthful for the European Union to swallow. The problem is not so much its economy (bad, but little worse than some of the EU's accepted suitars from Eastern Europe) nr even the fact that it is 98 per cent Mustim -hui with its political

and human rights record. Essentially, arguments in favour of an early start to entry negotiations are all negative arguments. Why, it is asked, does Turkey's hour never come, while Estonia and Slovenia who 10 years ago were not even sovereign countries - are accepted at the first time of asking? Rejection, it is said, will virtually remove any chance of resolving the Cyprus dispute. More serious still, if Europe spurns it anew, this strategically vital Nato country may turn its back on the West in favour of the Islamic world. This in turn, it is argued, would weaken its fragile democracy and offer a fresh opening for theocratic Islam: only six months ago, after all, the Islamic-leaning government of

Necmettin Erbakan was eased

To deal with those points in order. Underlying the first of them is the age-old questinn of whether Turkey is a part of Eu-

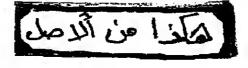
rape. To which the answer is: less so than 150 years ago, when the country was an integral part of the European balance of power. Half of Turkey's trade may be with the EU. But Slovenia and Estonia are geographically far closer to the continent's fading, but not entirely vanished. East-West fault line. Turkey is a large Muslim country on its south-eastern fringe. Second, Cyprus. Yes, reknit-

ting the divided island will not get any easier, with Greece firmly inside the EU and Turkey again knocking on a locked door. And, assuming the summit endorses the Commissiun's proposals, Europe has done itself no favours with its weird decision to open entry acgotiations with Cyprus i.e. the internationally recognised Greek half of the island -in the teeth of understandable and bitler Turkish protest. But that hegs the question of whether a Cypriot "solution" along conventional lines is possible. Diplomats still chase the

tion of the Greek and Turkish parts. After 23 years of fruitless search, however, the most realistic solution may be to turn de facto partition into de jure partition.

Finally, the political future of Turkey itself. Is it really the proper joh of the EU to take in new members to save them from themselves? And is it really certain that the mere promise of EU membership would trump the appeal of fslamicism, or that the lack of such a promise would alienate Turkey from the West, or in the worst of cases provoke it into walking out of Nato.

That brings us to the strongest obstacles in Turkish membership - the political power of the armed forces demonstrated again in the ousting of Mr Erbakan, and at basic odds with the the civilian, democratic beritage of the EU - and a dismal record of human rights abuses against Kurdish autonomists in Eastern Turkey. These are matters that Turkey's politicians alone can decide. In the meantime good friendship and military alliance with Turkey is one thing. EU membership, for the time being, is another. If only the diplomats had said so before,



Generators deal staves pit closures off until June

The English coalfields were granted a six-month stay of execution yesterday after the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, disclosed that the three power generators had struck an agreement with RIB Mining that will avoid any pit closures or redundancies until June next year. But, as Michael Harrison discovered, confusion reigns over the terms of the deal and how many collieries can be saved in the longer term.

Mr Blair told the Commons that National Power, PowerGen and Eastern Group had agreed supply arrangements with RJB for three months after the existing coal contracts run out in April so that a full review of energy policy can be carried out.

The agreement follows approaches to the three companies by a ministerial emissary of the Prime Minister asking them to do all they could to purchase more coal.

Under the rescue deal thrashed out with RJB, the generators are understood to have agreed to increase their emergency stockpiles of coal at the power stations to throw the pits a lifeline. One estimate was that stockpiles might be raised by as much as 8 million tonnes

Current stockpiles are around 12 to 13 million tonnes but Michael Clapham, Labour MP for Barnsley West and Penistone, has been urging the Government to increase this to 20 million tonnes.

Last night, however, it was far from clear how the agreement would be implemented and who would bear any financial losses arising from it. One of the generators said: This is an agreement to sit down and belp RJB through the next six months but the details have not been worked out. We don't know what volumes will be involved and at what price or what the split will be between the three of us.

It also emerged that PowerGen has still not signed a contract to buy any coal from current levels. These are already above the RJB from next April. In the current financial year the three generators are contracted to buy 27 million tonnes from RJB. gards as commercially prudent levels.

So far only National Power and Eastern have contracted to buy supplies next year and these contracts only cover 12 million

The stand-off with the generators had led to fears that up to half the 17 deep mines in England could close with the loss of at least 5.000 jobs as demand for RJB's coal fell by a half. PowerGen had indicated that it was not interested in buying more than 2 million tonnes of coal against the 9 million it is taking this year and then only if RJB agreed to cut its prices by a further 15 per cent from those already quoted.

Announcing the agreement in the Commons, Mr Blair said, to cheers: "This will allow the UK deep-mine coal industry to continue production at present levels without immediate redundancies or pit closures."

The Prime Minister added: "This is a six-month delay, however, and what is important is that we then use that opportunity to review the long-term energy requirements of the nation and make sure that we have an energy policy that is consistent both with a competitive industry and with the long-term energy needs of the country."

John Redwood, shadow president of the Board of Trade, said: "Any stay of execution for the coal industry is welcome but the Government's proposal is no substitute for setting out a proper energy policy. The Government needs to tell us soon what balance it wants between gas and coal-fired stations. Its besitations and U-turns so far leave miners fearing for their jobs and the gas industry unsure of whether it should plan for an expanded future or not."

RJB Mining refused to comment on the details of the agreement but welcomed the announcement; "This is a positive step forward which will be warmly received in the coalfields.

National Power said that it had been "rather confused" by the announcement. A spokesman said it bad already publicly undertaken to buy some more coal from UK suppliers in the coming months but only at competitive prices. The generator also appeared to pour cold water on the idea that stockpiles could be increased above minimum security levels required by law and also above what National Power re-



The market soured for cider makers as last year's tax hike and competition from new drinks hit their margins

Bulmer shares tumble as profits dive

HP Bulmer, the Strongbow and Woodpecker cider maker, highlighted the tremendous problems facing the cider business when it announced a sharp fall in profits yesterday. Andrew Yates reports on industry in real trouble.

Investors in HP Bulmer took fright yesterday sending its shares down 15p to 392.5p as the group announced a 17.5 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £14.3m for the six months to October. The poor set of results sent shock waves reverberating around the

industry, coming just 24 hours after rival Matthew Clark was forced to make its second profits warning in 18 months,

John Rudgard, Bulmers' chief executive. said: "There is no doubt that the market is difficult at the moment and sales have been very disappointing."

Bulmers and Matthew Clark have both embarked on multi-million pound advertising campaigns in an attempt to revive cider

"There are some signs that the decline in the cider market has been halted," insisted Mr Rudgard, However, City analysts pointed out that the marketing drive had yet to show any tangible benefits and were sceptical that the cider producers' gamble would pay off.

"It will be a long hard slog. It could take years for there to be any improvement in cider sales," one drinks analyst said.

The cider market has been hit by the proliferation of new beers such as Caffrey's and the emergence of alcopops. Bulmers also said that the 7.5 per cent tax hike on strong ciders last year bad created turmoil in the

Merrydown is likely to become the first casualty of the eider industry's troubles and is currently being circled by predators. However, both Bulmers and Matthew Clark have now ruled themselves out of the running to takeover their struggling rival. leaving Pernod Ricard as the favourite to strike. Investment Chlamu, page 24

Pfizer to create 1,500 jobs at R&D site in Kent

In one of the biggest single research and development investments into the UK, around 1.500 new jobs are to be created hy an expansion of Prizer's drugs research facility in Sandwich, Kent.

The US pharmaceuticals giant is planning to invest between £100m and £150m, including financial assistance from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Pfizer already employs 3,500 people at the Sandwich site, which specialises in human and animal drug research. Capitalised at \$97bn (£59bn), it is the world's sixth-largest drugs group, employing 47,000 people world-wide.

lts new investment programme, to be unveiled today by the DTI and Pfizer, will be used to expand Pfizer's humag medicine research.

Pfizer is a leading force in cardiovascular medicine, with drugs including Istin and Cardura, and is regularly ranked alongside Glaxo Wellcome and Merck as one of the world's best run drug companies.

Pfizer's decision will come a major boost to Government's inward investment programme, which was rocked by Toyota's decision this week to open a new car plant in France rather than in the UK.

That news followed a strong run of investments by foreign companies into the UK in 1996 under the Conservative government, including the creation of more than 6000 jobs in Wales. by Lucky Goldstar, the Korean consumer electronics group.

The government's backing for Pfizer will be seen as further evidence of the government's commitment to supporting science and technology in the UK. It follows the decision by Microsoft, the US computer group to make a £50m investment in a new plant in Cambridgeshire this summer,

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ancial crisis in

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Kingfisher casts gloom over sales prospects for Christmas

Christmas is looking like a miserable one for Britain's retailers. Shares in Kingfisher and Dixons slumped yesterday as Kingfisher warned of stiff competition in the Christmas holiday period and reported a slowdown of sales growth at Comet, its electrical goods chain. The warning follows monthly figures from the British Retail Consortium on Tuesday which showed a sharp slowdown in November sales. Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, King-

fisher chief executive, warned: "Our fourth-quarter performance will be crucial and Christmas trading is proving more competitive than ever." The comments came as Kingfisher announced a healthy 7.8 per cent like-for-like sales growth in the third quarter to 1 November across its husinesses, but a slowdown in likefor-like sales at Comet. Kingfisher's Comet, Woolworth and Superdrug chains are the chief beneficiaries of Christmas spending. A spokesman for the company said pressure was growing from customers for value for money. "It's getting tougher and tougher to attract customers," said the company.

The BRC survey showed the value of retail sales in November grew just 1.1 per cent cumpared to a 4.9 per cent growth in November 1996 and warned that retailers faced a "white-knuckle ride" at Christmas. The Office of National Statistics has also pointed to a marked slowdown of retail price inflation in November.

Richard Hyman from Verdict, the retail consultants, said that part of the reason for the weak figures for November was a spending boom in the comparative period last year, helped by the cold weather. This year demand has been held back by early spending of windfall gains. the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and rising interest rates.

Bank committee voted unanimously on rates rise ter point rise. The minutes followed the meeting. For wide-In the first case, this would City analysts might be

divided about whether interest rates should have gone up last month, but the Bank of **England's Monetary Policy Committee was** not. Minutes of its meeting, published yesterday, showed a unanimous vote for the quarter-point rise. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reads between

The minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee's discussion in November caused some City experts almost as much surprise as the quarter-point rate rise that

spread rumours of a vote split between inflation bawks and doves turned out to be false.

What's more, the minutes made it clear that the committee had left the door open to further rate increases. There remains a clear possibility of another move in the new year.

Kevin Gardiner, an economist at investment bank Morgan Stanley who is predicting at least one more step up in the cost of borrowing, said: "The fact that the decision was unanimous suggests the committee members felt the case was clear cut."

The minutes set out three possible scenarios for the economy. One placed more weight on recent signs that growth has peaked, but the other two indicated a need for immediate action to keep inflation on target.

be an insurance policy against the danger that the effect of the strong pound on exports not being enough to slow growth to a sustainable pace. In the other, a rate increase was definitely necessary because of evidence of over-strong growth and a

tight labour market. In support of the latter case, the minutes listed all the signs that growth and inflation bad turned out higher than expected during the previous few months. In particular, the lack of spare capacity, recruitment difficulties and rapid broad money growth weighed in favour of this interpretation.

Although agreeing that there was a lot of uncertainty about inflation prospects, the committee members therefore agreed on an immediate quarsaid: "A policy tightening would bring output back to its trend level more quickly, and if necessary interest rates could be cut if new evidence emerged that the economy was weaker

than expected." They also stressed the danger of not acting at once: "If. on the other hand, policy was not tightened, there was a risk that inflation expectations would rise as strong demand pressures persisted. The committee might then find itself baving to tighten sharply, increasing the risk of a recession. to bring things back on course."

As a matter of tactics, the committee also favoured raising rates before the publication of figures expected to show a rebound in retail sales and disappointing retail price inflation.

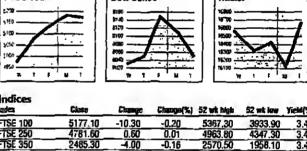
Delaying until afterwards would make it look as if the Bank was reacting too late to had news.

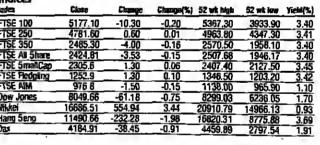
Simon Briscoe, an economist at Nikko Europe who criticised last month's move as unnecessary, said yesterday: "In the face of uncertainty, the Bank assumes the worst." He said no further action was now needed

Mr Gardiner, on the other hand, said: "The Bank will raise rates if pay settlements accelerate in the New Year, even if growth slows. And 1 don't think growth is going to slow all that fasi."

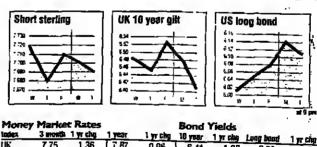
John O'Sullivan, an economist with NatWest Markets. pointed out that the fact that the vote was unanimous did not mean there were no dissenters on the panel.

STOCK MARKETS





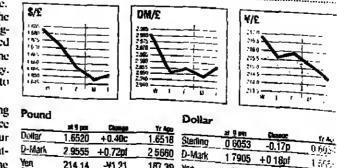
INTEREST RATES

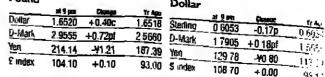


MAIN PRICE CHANGES

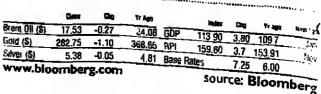
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CURRENCIES





OTHER INDICATORS



Railtrack shares hit as track TV licence fee to rise by £6 to fund BBC's digital plans access charges set for review

plummeted after the rail regulator announced a far-reaching review of track access charges paid Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, explains why the industry watchdog's bark is as bad as his bite.

More than £400m was wiped from the company's market value as shares fell from their morning price of 1080p after John Swift QC, the regulator, announced be was looking for "radical and innovative changes

to the current charging" regime. The regulator's review is likely to see a cut in the tariffs Railtrack, which owns the nation's track, signalling and stations, is allowed to charge freight and

passenger train operators. What also concerned the

that the fees did not reflect Railto see if the same output and service can be provided at a low-er cost," Mr Swift said.

In fact, the document be produced was blunter. In it. Mr Swift said: "The real pre-tax cost of capital in current circumstances falls in the range of 6 to 8 per cent ... a lower cost of capital figure might be appropriate". One director at Railtrack fumed at this paragraph, saying: "The regulator must realise that our

business is investment-intensive." Also likely to be hit are the revenues produced by track access charges. The existing price control, which cuts charges by two per cent below inflation each year, expires in 2001. More than 90 per cent of the company's income comes from an impact on the share price." these fees and any cut would seriously impact the bottom line. Last month, Railtrack's interim figure showed a rise in

profits of 10 per cent to £190m. The Railtrack director, who City was the regulator's view did not wish to be named, said: at the company.

"It is not about profit. What track's costs. "We are looking about interest and dividend cover? Remember, we have to borrow to fulfil our investment

One option being considered would see the track charges reduced and then any savings being used to cut subsidy to the operators. Mr Swift said: "We look forward to bearing from the Government. It is a political matter whether money could he hypothecated [ring-fenced] and returned to the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions or whether it is

given back to the taxpayer." City analysis were bearish on the short term prospects of the share price. "It does show that there's still considerable uncertainty, which obviously has said Gert Zonneveld, an analyst

with Panmure Gordon. The fall comes after a rally that has seen Railtrack's stock rise almost 10 per cent in two weeks and has shaken top brass

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, will today confirm an inflation-busting increase in the BBC's annual ticence fee next year. Viewers will have to pay

£97.50 next year for a colour TV licence, an increase of £6 - or 6.6 per cent - on this year. The announcement will support the Conservative government's five-year licence formula for the Corporation, unveiled last year. Labour said at the time that the proposals were "surprising"

and would be reviewed by the party if it came to power. The review is now complete, and the Conservative's proposals will be fully implemented. The present fee of £91.50

represented a 12 rise on the previous year, in line with inflation. After next year, there will be one further above-inflation increase, before the fee rise dips below inflation for 2000 and 2001.

Next year's big jump will be used to fund the introduction of digital. It emerged yesterday that the BBC would need to use up to £7m of licence-payers' money

each year to pay for capacity, encryption and other services on digital satellite television. The BBC has committed to

transmitting its digital channels via as many technologies as possible so as to ensure its new services can be seen by all its licence-fee payers. ITV, by contrast, is not at the moment intending to broadcast its digital channels on satellite or cable. A BBC spokesman said the

expense of broadcasting on digital satellite should be compared to the cost of transmitting on the current analogue technology. That is thought to amount to more than £20m annually, The Corporation is using

digital television to introduce such as News 24, the 24-hour news channel which is currently only seen by a minority of the population with access to cable television. Other offerings will include BBC Choice, featuring "companion" programmes designed to complement those running on BBC1 and 2; and BBC Learning.

- Cathy Newman

العداس الاعلى



OUTLOOK

The Fat Controller calls a halt at Railtrack

Given that the Rail Regulator John Swift cannot plunder Railtrack's revenues until 2001, the 8 per cent drop in its share price which accompanied yesterday's launch of the review of access charges looks like a short-term panic response to a longer term problem. But regulators do make the City jittery these days, and after the treatment Clare Spottiswoode meted out to poor old British Gas, there is no telling how beastly Mr Swift may choose

Railtrack undoubtedly got away with a very generous regulatory regime when slow up the Swift express as it bears down the access charging formula was put in place in 1995. A one-off cut of eight per cent in charges followed by real reductions for the next five years of 2 per cent hardly looked challenging for an organisation carrying the amount of excess baggage left to it by British Rail.

The share price rather tells the story. In the eighteen months since privatisation, Railtrack has more than doubled in value while the profits have been piling up at the same remorseless rate as Virgin Trains receives customer complaints. Not surprising for a business where 94 per cent of the income is guaranteed by the taxpayer via the subsidies paid to Railtrack's customers, the train operating

Now Railtrack is about to pay the price, if the Regulator gets his way. Buried away in the small print of yesterday's consultative document is a paragraph inviting views on why the company should be al-

lowed a rate of return any higher than 8 per cent. The sort of figure Railtrack has been bandying around the City is a good deal north of that.

Following in the footsteps of the laughing regulatory at Ofgas, Mr Swift has also dropped a heavy hint that the value of the regulated asset base on which Railtrack will be allowed to earn a return will be much closer to its £2bn flotation price than the £7.4hn figure which appears in the accounts.

Oddly enough, the one person who may on Railtrack is the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott. If Railtrack has its way, then very soon it will end up owning not just the rail network but also a slice of London Underground and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, turning it into the sort of monopoly provider that old Labour so loved, albeit a privately-owned one. With so much of his integrated transport policy riding on Railtrack's investment strategy, Mr Prescott can't afford to be too

The Government's new partnership with industry seems to be working rather well. Or is it? Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, proudly announced yesterday that a deal had been successfully brokered between the main electricity generators and Richard Budge's RJB that would keep the pits open for at least another six months. Splendid news, and clear evidence that the then President of the Board of Trade, put around by those unfortunates in the

New Labour can indeed stop market forces doing exactly as they please. Unfortunately, the generators were at a loss to know what on earth he was on about. One of them, National Power, said there had been no agreement at all. Others said what agreement there was didn't add up to a hill of beans. Not such good news af-

What's going on here? The answer seems to be that the Government has stirred the pot and come up with a classic piece of meaningless whitehall fudge. Yes, there is an agreement of sorts, but not one capable of the grandiose interpretation the Government put on it. Existing contracts between the generators and Mr Budge run until the end of March in any case, so even accepting the Government has persuaded the generators to extent these contracts, it isn't six months, hat just three.

Even this seems to exaggerate the true position, however, for although some of the generators admit to agreeing to help if they can, by for instance increasing their stock piles of coal, all of them say there is no question of persisting with present levels of demand for British coal after existing contracts expire. Certainly, there has been no agreement on quantity or price other than those already announced.

The whole thing is earily reminiscent of Michael Heseltine's famous "coal review". Faced with a public outcry over plans to close down most of British Coal,

backed off and ordered a government review of policy. The industry won a reprieve, but not for long. A year after the review, the original closure plans had been implemented in full.

There's to be a review this time round too, "to consider the place of coal in our long term energy policy", whatever that policy is. However, it is hard to see how any of the eight initiatives outlined yesterday by John Battle, the Energy Minister, is going to help matters very much. In any case, you have to question whether the Government really has its heart in rescuing this industry, given that some of its environmental objectives can be satisfied by its closure. The betting must still overwhelmingly be that a year down the line, another 5,000 miners will be out of a job.

It would not have been a surprise if the members had been split over the interest rate decision made by the Monetary Policy Committee last month. Economists outside the Bank of England were in disagreement about the need for an increase in rates. As Winston Churchill famously observed, you always get more than one opinion per capita from members of the ecocomics profession. At a time like this when the economy is at a turning point, the range of views is wider than ever.

However, it looks like the instant rumours of a split vote in the Bank of England were nothing more than a cover story

City who had bet on no increase. The quarter point move certainly caught many by

The minutes suggest that there were indeed some nuances of disagreement between the MPC's members. It was the first time that a range of possible economic scenarios requiring different policy reactions - doveish, wait-and-see or hawkish · had been discussed so explicitly. This means, more likely than not, that the members did not fully agree on which was the most plausible. As the minutes note, there is a lot of uncertainty about where growth and inflation are heading.

How comforting. If the seven experts holding the monetary reins could hold different views and still end up with a consensus decision, it means we have grown-ups in charge of monetary policy. Perhaps the quarter point was a compromise between hawks who would have opted for a half point and doves who wanted no change. They debated it and reached a conclusion they could all sign

This is not the stuff of dramatic headlines or even successful gambles in the sterling futures market. A split in the august corridors of the Bank of England would have been more exciting. But it does hold out the hope that the new structure for setting interest rates will indeed deliver the most responsible policy decisions Britain has enjoyed for a long time. Even Sir Winston might have been grudgingly

TI sale puts French defence commitment in doubt Nissan attains

TI Group yesterday sold its 50 per cent share of Messier-Dowty, its landing-gear business, to its joint-venture partner Snecma after the French (er:ate-owned aerospace group ruled out selling its stake. As Peter Thal Larsen reports, the news casts doubt on the French government's commitment to European defence consolidation just a day after France, Britain and Germany called for the creation of a single

TI had originally hoped to take full control of Messier-Dowty, which supplies landing gear for commercial aircraft ite ind military jets such as the Lurofighter. But following the change of government in Paris. those hopes were dashed.

European defence group.

"We detected a strong shift of positiun after the recent

French elections," said the Finance director Martin Angle. There was no option on the

table for us to buy." As a result, TI decided to sell its stake for £207.7m rather than continue with the joint venture, which was performing poorly despite huoyant demand in the aerospace market. "Messier-Dowty was not capable of producing the returns required by a UK public company," Mr Angle said. "It had to be owned by one party or the other for returns to be max-

Snecma's refusal to sell appears to contradict the French government's support for crossborder consolidation in the defence industry. Just yesterday President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin put their names to a joint statement with Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany calling on the three countries' aerospace and defence industries to "restructure to compete in world markets". The statement asked the industry to come up with an plan and timetable by next

Industry experts, who have long been suspicious of the French government's commitment to defence consolidation, were not surprised. "The French government's actions to date suggest they're in the business of huilding national champions," said one, "They want to get their own house in order before coming to the negotiating table."

TI shares fell 17.5p to 513p as analysts reduced their profil forecasts for the group. "It's a bit disappointing that Messier wasn't going to make the profits we though it was," said one. "The sale will also reduced TT's profits by about 3 per cent until they reinvest the proceeds."

But other observers broadly welcomed the move. "Messier's performance has been very pedestrian," said ooe. "It was a question of doublc or quits."

Mr Angle pointed out that, taking into account disposals and the value of the remaining husinesses, TI had enjoyed a healthy return on its investment. The group acquired Dowty for £650m in 1992 after a hitterly fought takeover battle. "We have created some



£400m-£450m of value since then," he said. Following the Messier-Dowty sale, TI still controls Dowty's original polymer division as well as its wholly-owned Dowty Acrospace husiness, which makes engine rings as well as propellers for

turnoprop aircraft and ac- bolt-on acquisitions for every counts for 20 per cent of TT's

Indeed, TI plans use proceeds of the Messier sale to expand its remaining businesses, mcluding aerospace. Mr Angle said the group was looking at one of its businesses. "We have discussions going on in every area," he said. The group recently announced that it had taken a 30 per ceot stake in Lips, a Dutch manufacturer of marine propulsion systems for

£7m, with an option to buy the remaining 70 per cent until June 1998. Mr Angle said he would be "very disappointed." if the company had not spent the mooey raised by the Messier-Dowty disposal by the

record car output in North-east

The Japanese car maker Nissan is set to huild a record number of cars at its Sunderland plant this year but the strength of sterling is likely to have hit the profitability of the UK operation hard.

Output of the Primera and Micra models from Sunderland will reach 271,500 this year - a 17 per cent increase on the 231,000 cars produced last year - and the highest level of production since 1993.

But because three-quarters of Sunderland's output is exported - mainly to the Continent profits will have taken a dip from the £28m recorded in 1996 because of exchange rate factors. Production next year is expected to remain at current levels but it will begin to rise again in 1999 when a third model goes into pro-

duction at Sunderland. Nissan is investing an additional £215m on the plant to begin production of a C-class medium-sized model to replace the Almeira. Output will eventually reach 100,000 a year, increasing production from the site to 370,000.

Ian Gibson, chief executive of Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK, said the impact of the strong pound had been partly mitigated by productivity improvements and the high capacity utilisation at Sunderland. Output per employee has risen 10 per cent this year white the production line is working at

more than 90 per cent capacity. Mr Gibson questioned Toyota's decision to build a third model in France rather than expand its Burnaston site near Derby. The rival car manufacturer is investing £400m on a factury in Valenciennes to build a smal car to replace the Starlet.

The strategy is to increase sales in France, where Toyota has only I percent of the market, by having a high-profile manufacturing plant in the country. But Mr Gibson said Ford had attempted the same strategy in the 1980s, building an automatic transmission plant in France to improve their French credentials and local sales but it had not made any difference.

- Michael Harrison

Financial crisis in S Korea deepens

South Korea's capital markets were virtually paralysed as a crisis of confidence swept the country's troubled financial industry. The povernment shut five more shaky merchant banks, bringing the total ciosed to 14 of 30, and pledged to guarantee the debts of its securities firms.

Korea also threw open its bond market to fureign investors yesterday. The government pledged an all-out effort to normalise operations at the ones that remain, in an attempt to bolster market morale and prevent The banking crisis from driving more companies into insolvency.

Lim Chang-yuel, the Finance and Economy Minister, said:

"We had no other choice because [these] banks have been suffering from a run on deposits exceeding 1 trillion won (£404m) each and every day."

The five merchant banks. ordered to close until at least Jan. 31 1998, are Nara Banking Corp. Daehan Investment Banking Corp. Shinhan Investment Bank Corp, Hanwha Merchant Bank Corp and Central Banking Corp. Nine merchant banks were suspended last week and told to find ways to rescue themselves by the end of this month or face permanent closure.

A week after the country accepted emergency credit from the International Monetary Fund. Korea's financial turmoil shows no sign of abating. Even some of Korea's biggest compunies cannot raise money in the bond market. The country's currency, the won, fell 10 per cent against the dollar for a second day to a record low of 1,566

with no offers to buy the currency. And commercial banks. some fighting for their own survival, remain reluctant to extend credit after a record 15,000 companies filed for bankruptcy this year.

> "It's a game of survival. Nu one is doing business with anybody," said Milton Kim, president of Sangyong Investment & Securities Co, one of Korea's top five brokerages. Some executives are already questioning whether the \$60bn (£36bn) lifeline arranged by the IMF for the country's bankrupt financial and industrial companies will be enough.

Even some Korcans, who weeks ago bristled at the idea that the IMF might dictate economic policy, now say the government must accept that some of the country's commercial banks and securities companies will not survive. The Korean government may itself be push-

edge as it tries to save every last bank from closure. Yesterday, u went to the aid of Korea First Bank and Seoul Bank, its two most troubled banks, giving them shares in two top hlue-chip companies in return fur 59 per cent ownership by the state.

banks would normally raise short-term funds, are frozen as rates have reached their limits set by the government. For overnight money, for example, the rate offered by banks has hit 25 per cent. Banks are not lending to companies, who are finding other money-raising methods cut off as well. Samsung Acrospace Industries, Korea's higgest aircraft components manufacturer, postponed a 50bn won hond sale because there were no takers. A 20bn won bond sale by Daewoo Telecom Co has also been

Bank warns of euro chaos as institutions fail to prepare

Insurers and fund managers are lagging hehind in their preparations for the euro, according to a report published yesterday by the Bank of England. The Bank also warned that failure to prepare thoroughly for the The money markets, where "Euro Big Bang" at the end of 1998 could result in financial market chaos. Without meticulous planning, "there will be the potential for fraud, and the scope for confusion and error," the Bank said.

According to the report. "Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro", banks are well on course for the introduction of the euro on 1 January 1999. But "preparations amongst many fund managers and insurers appear rather less advanced".

John Townend, deputy director at the Bank of England, explained that, until now, many fund managers and insurers have relied on banks to take the lead in euro preparations. "They [the fund managers and insurers] need to start thinking

for themselves," he said. Mr Townend also stressed the importance of preparing for the "Euro Big Bang", the socalled "conversion weekend". Between 31 December 1998 and 4 January 1999, debt issues of countries participating in the first wave of monetary union, as well as some cash accounts.

will be converted into euros. The Bank wants key players in the conversion weekend to start testing their systems by the end of September next year, at the very latest. And it emphasised yesterday that all firms operating in London's wholesale securities market

imise the risk of confusion and error". The Bank said: "The conversion weekend will be like a simultaneous Big Bang at the wholesale level throughout the

"need to understand in detail

how the conversion weekend

is expected to work, to min-

European Union, and it is essential that the euro gets off to a good start". Institutions' resources are being stretched by the dual challenge of preparing for the euro and the year 2000, ac-

cording to the report. The Bank yesterday gave its official seal of approval to Chaps euro, a real-time gross settlement system, which will from 1999, run in parallel with the existing Chaps sterling settlement system.

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Cider makers feel squeezed

The cider industry is in turmoil. Growing competition from the new crop of creamy, smooth beers and alcopops have caused sales to slump. A rise in duty on strong ciders has forced manufacturers to raise prices. causing customers to switch to other tipples in droves.

All three quoted eider makers, Matthew Clark, Merrydown and HP Bulmer, have seen their shares collapse since the start of the year.

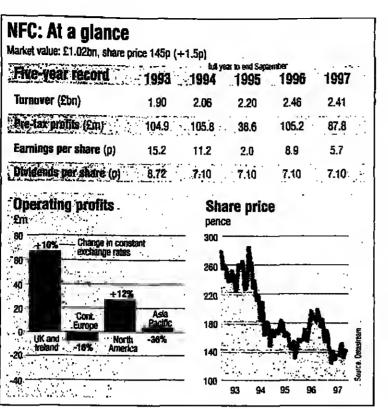
Bulmer added to the gloom yesterday by announcing a 17.5 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £14.3m in the six months to October. Its shares fell another 15p to 392.5p. A £2.5m increase in the advertising hudget for brands such as Stronghow failed to curb the slump in the market. Bulmer predicted the market would rise by 4 per cent in the year to September. In fact it has fallen 7 per cent. Despite Bulmer's assertions that the market has bottomed, the fall in sales that Matthew Clark has experienced in the vital run-up to Christmas suggests that the industry's troubles are far from over.

Bulmer and Matthew Clark are right direction gambling that a further rise in advertising spend will eventually pay off. In the long run, it is hard to argue with kind of spending contributed the in-

dustry's problems in the first place. fruit for years and most investors won't want to hang around to find out. which time the shares have fallen by a

One obvious answer to the cider makers' woes is to join forces. Merrydown is already in the hid spotlight and Matthew Clark and Bulmer should consider a merger, which would allow them to pool their advertising efforts. Given that a tie-up would give the two more than 90 per cent of the UK eider markct, this obviously raises monopoly issues. But these are not insurmountable as they could argue cider is in effect competing with the broader heer and UK and US divisions are buoyant lager market.

Analysts have cut Bulmer's full-year profit forecasts by £1m to £27m, putting the shares on 12 times forward earnings. Until there are signs of a recovery in the cider market, its shares, which have fallen from 625p in March, still look high enough.



NFC heads in the to increase the "value added" aspects

Has NFC reached a turning point? For the strategy. After all, a dearth of this the first time since he took the wheel of the transport and logistics group, Gerry Murphy is running what looks like But the investment may not hear a relatively stable husiness. True, this has taken two and a half years, during fifth. But the absence of any disasters from the full-year results, which showed operating profits from continuing operations rising 4 per cent to £108.6m, suggests the worst may be over.

Most of the restructuring has been done - the £49m charge which dented this year's profits should cover any remaining redundancies. Unprofitable contracts have been terminated and the worst subsidiaries sold, Meanwhile, the operating profits rose 10 per cent and depresses Smith per cent respectively.

Turning those businesses around will

itself from cut-throat price competition. In the name of shareholder value, NFC is also planning to put its £53.4m cash pile - the result of its disposal programme - to better use. The cash may be spent on an acquisition, possibly in the US. However, the group could also hand hack £250m to shareholders and keep gearing below 40 per cent.

of its service in an attempt to shield

All this is welcome news. However, with the shares - up 1.5p yesterday to 145p - already on a multiple of 15 times broker Greig Middleton's 1998 earnings forecast, the upside looks limited. Mr Murphy may have successfully halted NFC's decline. But that doesn't mean the company is suddenly going to start generating runaway growth.

Strong pound

That said, there is much still to do. Things really are looking dismal when Losses in continental Europe deep- a company starts talking about being ened, mainly due to strikes in France. open to takeover talks. Peter Williams, chief executive of David S Smith, the take time. Meanwhile, management of paper and packaging group, needs to of cost-cutting Lloyds TSB and bid-the Exel Logistics arm is working hard cheer himself up somehow. The curse target NatWest looks like a one-way bet.

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of sterling continues to hang over the company. The strong pound has hit the value of Smith's expons while enticing European paper manufacturers looking for a home for their excess capacity into the UK market where Smith makes most of its money.

As a result Smith's profits for the half year to November slumped 5tt per cent to £29.3m with sales down 10 per cent to £554.8m, half of which was due to sterling.

The sector itself isn't in bad shape. Growth in mail order and home shopping, which uses small boxes, is lifting demand for corrugated paper. And manufacturers are starting to hold back on increasing capacity, though that

remains a problem. However, Mr Williams is right that there needs to be turther consolidation in the sector. Though he says the company is not up for sale, he would not he opposed to a takeover. As for bidders? In a global sector take your pick. though having Smith would make more sense for a non-UK player which hasn't been hammered by sterling. The US's International Paper and Sweden's SCA are two front runners.

UBS is forecasting £55m full-year profits. The shares, down 8.5p to 196.5p. are on a forward p/e ratio of 15 times. Not a buy.

Easy money for merging banks

Will share prices in the UK banking sector continue to defy gravity in 1998? So it would seem, if figures from UBS analyst Mark Howdle are any guide. In his new report "The Urge to Merge". Mr Howdle provides a table which lists the consolidation potential

in European hanking. Concentration - the market share of the top five banks - in the UK is calculated at 57 per cent. Return on equity is 21.6 per cent. Now turn to Germany, where concentration is 17 per

cent, and return just 8.4 per cen1. Which, crudely, suggests that the fewer banks there are competing on the high street, the easier it is to make money for their shareholders. As the consolidation juggernaut rolls on across the financial sector, investing in the likes

Record season for Airtours as bookings take off

Airtours, the UK's second-largest tour operator, said yesterday that the holiday market was booming. Andrew Yates finds the strong economy. low unemployment and windfall payments from building societies are fuelling the surge in bookings.

Airtours 1998 summer holiday bookings are 15 per cent higher than last year. The group is also experiencing its busiest Christmas on record and overall winter bookings have risen 11 per cent, with the Canary Islands proving the most popular holiday spot.

David Crossland. Airtours' founder and chairman, said: This growth is not just coming from windfall payments. The real driver is that people are feeling more secure about their employment."

Customers are also paying higher prices for holidays. "More people are trading up to higher quality accommodation. They are typically paying up to

Crossland. More holiday makers are booking early and paying brochure prices as the tour operators have cut the number of late package deals on offer. However, Airtours' summer holiday prices will fall next year by up to 5 per cent. The strength of the pound has enabled it to secure better deals with local

Long-haul destinations are becoming increasingly popular and Airtours predicted that Mexico would be the soughtafter destination in 1998. The number of City hreaks holidays sold also rose sharply. Strong demand meant Airtours decided in March to increase the number of breaks on offer to destinations such as Paris, Amsterdam and Rome.

However, last month's tourist massacre near Luxor has shattered the Egyptian holiday market and Airtours has decided to scrap cruising holidays to the country next month.

Mr Crossland said that Airtours had a war chest of £250m for acquisitions. The group is committed to expanding its husiness in North America despite losing £6.6m over there last £100 on top of the £400 they year due to start-up losses in the

would normally pay," said Mr US and problems in Canada. Airtours is also eyeing up more purchases in Europe, especially in Germany.

lifeway tops in

Airtours is also likely to invest in expanding its cruising operation by huying a new ship in the near future. The group has been encouraged by the rapid growth in the business which now carries 150,000 people a year from a standing start in 1995.

Airtours, together with US partner Carnival, recently bought Costa Crociere, the world's fourth-largest cruise line, and is planning to pump more money into this business. Airtours' pre-tax profits

were up 39 per cent to £120m for the year to September. However, its shares slipped 32.5p to 1235p. Analysts were disappointed with the performance of its Scandinavian business. Scandinavians stayed at . home to enjoy the hottest summer for 200 years, which meant holiday sales grew more slowly than expected.

Airtours does not expect to have to sell Going Places, its travel agents chain, as a result of a Monopolies and Merger Commission investigation into links between tour operators and travel agents.

Allied Colloids bids to repel US offer

Allied Colloids, the chemicals group, yesterday pledged to cut costs dramatically and raise operating margins in its hid to repel a £1.1bn hostile takeover approach from Hercules, a US

In its defence document Allied predicted that it could wipe £5m off its raw material bill next year. The group also plans to cut costs by revamping its manufacturing facilities and introducing new technology and IT systems. However, this is likely to lead to job cuts among Allied's 3.900 strong work force, including some of the 1,900

Allied insisted that the 155pa-share offer drastically undervalued the group given its consistent improvement in sales and an increase in margins in Harnett, Allied Colloids' finance director, said: "We have repositioned ourselves for the battle to come. It is a poke in the eye to Hercules, we just haven't knocked them out yet."

Hercules slammed Allied's defence, claiming it had made flattering comparisons and pointing out that operating profits fell 17 per cent in the last six months compared with the people it employs in Bradford. first half of the financial year.

Keith Elliott, chairman and chief executive of Hercules. said: "The Allied Colloids document is uninspiring. Our cash offer continues to look very genthe last six months. John erous for a stock that has destroyed shareholder value and has consistently underperformed the FTSE All Share and FTSE Chemicals Indices."

Allied refused to comment on whether the group was looking for another bidder to act as a white knight. But sources suggest several rivals have already registered an interest in Allied. Allied's shares were un-, moved at 167p.

- Andrew Yates

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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

moderate, says IoD

Company directors are already showing the kind of pay restraint called for by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his pre-

Budget statement last month, according to a report out today. But, as Roger Tropp reports, the findings contradict a similar survey published just two weeks ago.

Directors are enjoying rises broadly in line with inflation and a whole, according to figures published by the Institute of Directors.

The findings of the survey. produced in association with the Reward Group, a consultancy specialising in pay and related benefits, are in marked contrast to those from Monks Partnership, another firm of remuneration advisors.

That showed directors' base twice the rate of inflation - over the year. Total earnings, includcluding proceeds from long-term incentive plans, share options, pension costs and other benefits

director general, explained the bonuses reached £35,000.

difference by saying pay levels in the majority of businesses were "very different from those seen in some of the previous media coverage, which tended to focus on the very large.

quoted companies." The IoD study indicated that, while the average director's pay rose by 3.5 to 4 per cent. 51 per cent of those surveyed received 3 per cent or less, with 11 per cent receiving no increase at all. Sixty-one per cent of those covered received increases of 4 per cent or less.

He added: "The idea that UK directors are fat cats has always been a myth. There have been some cases of large company, inthe increases for employees as cluding utility company, directors enjoying excessive rewards. However, the vast majority are in small and medium-sized enterprises working long hours on modest salaries. This latest survey reinforces the moderate way their salaries have been increased in line with inflation and the rest of the workforce."

A managing director of a company with turnover of up to £25m typically had a salary of salaries rose by 6.3 per cent - or £52,000 and bonus of £12,000, while those in businesses with lumover of between £25m and ing the last annual bonus, but ex- £200m could expect a salary of £85,000 and a £20,000 bonus.

In companies with turnover of more than £200m, managing in kind, were up by 8.6 per cent. directors' basic salaries rose to Tim Melville-Ross, the IoD's an average of £135,000, while

	Turnover £	Pre-tax &	EPS	Dividend
Airteurs (F)	2 17bn (1.71bn)	120 3m (86 8m)	59.04p (45 6p)	20p (15p)
British Land (1)	-(4	S1 6m (34 2m)	8 4p (5 4p)	3.07p (2.92p)
HP Bulmer (I)	154 18m (162.5m)	14 32m (16.63m)	17.63p (20.2p)	5 20p (4 98p)
Claybithe (I)	13.97m (13 88m)	0 109m (0 050m)	0.5p (0.2p)	1 Op (0 89p)
Drummood Group (1)	28.3m (79 7m)	9.503m (9.805m)	1 56p (2.97p)	0 5p (0.5p)
Firth Hisson (I)	157.08m t138.81m	1)16. Lm (5 1m)	8.2p (4.0p)	280 (140)
LIMIT (I)	-(+)	10.2m (T.5m)	2.73p(2.16p)	20p (175p)
LPA Imposities (F)	5.27m (5.74m)	0 365m (0 428m)	4 25p (2.99p)	22.50(1.940)
Mereland (F)	(mr) 48j mre.001			
gade guoch (L)	152.09m t136.24m		23 43p(18.50p)	
Scattish Hydro (I)	4625m (416.8m)	71.9m (61.3m)	2.82p [12.37p]	
David & Smith (I)	554.8m (615.4m)	29.3m (58.6m)		2 7p (2.6p)
Vibroptani (I)	23.94m (17 83m)	0.821m(0.491m)	1.23p (0.71p)	I 4p(1.4p)
Wietrasi (1)	-61	1.9m (1.68m)	13.28p (10.94p)	

Directors' pay rises Stock Exchange may limit **New Year Eve's trading**

The London Stock Exchange is today considering whether to alter New Year's Eve trading rules to prevent deals going through SETS, the new electronic trading system, at rogue prices. Concern has been expressed that low trading volumes on 31 December could mean that trades are executed at unrepresentative prices. Closing prices on New Year's Eve are used to calculate fund valuations. Limiting trading to just one hour is one of the solutions being discussed at today's meeting of the Exchange's secondary markets committee.

US payments deficit grows

The strong dollar and the start of the Asian currency crisis drove America's balance of payments deficit to its widest for a year last quarter. According to new Commerce Department figures, the shortfall between exports of goods and services and imports was \$42.16bn, up from \$37.85bn in the April-June quarter. The deterioration - not quite as had as analysts had feared - was due to a bigger deficit in traded goods. Exports fell in value by nearly \$1 bn to \$170.6bn, while imports were \$3.5bn higher at \$222.1bn.

Barclaycard's French plans

Barclaycard, Europe's largest credit card issuer, is to launch 🗘 a Visa card in France. The move marks the next phase in Barclaycard's European expansion plans. The company already has 650,000 cardholders in Germany. Barclaycard, which has a UK card hase of 9 million, will invite French customers to start applying for credit cards from March 1998. The credit card will be the first French Visa card to be available without a bank account.

Rojo ruled out for ECB

Spain has ruled out Luis Angel Rojo, governor of the Bank of Spain, as a candidate for the top position in the European Central Bank (ECB). The Spanish government had previously said Mr Rojo would be presented as a candidate. The withdrawal of Mr Rojo's candidature leaves just Jean Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France, and Wim Duisen; berg. Germany's favoured candidate in the race for the top ECB post. A spokesperson for the Spanish government said the move was not "meant as a slight" to Mr Rojo.

New accounting standard

The Accounting Standards Board is considering amending its standard on reporting "the substance of transactions" to recognise the accounting difficulties caused by the prevalence of Private Finance Initiative contracts. Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB, explained the body's concern by saying that it was "crucial to ensure that those transactions that give rise to liabilities for the government are reported as such, so that Partiament is not misled over the extent of the payments it is committed to make in the future".

House buyers show caution

Growing job insecurity has made house huyers more cautious and will mean a significant slowdown in the spread of homeownership, according to an influential new report. Job insecurity, social change and the growing burden of student loans will keep future increases in the number of owneroccupiers very low, according to a report published yesterday by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Diane Coyle, page 26

Imperial Chemical Indus-

tries was buoyed by disposal

talk, gaining 23p to 928p, but

Railtrack was shunted 84p low-

er to 996p as the regulator sig-

nalled a far reaching review.

The quarterly Footsie

changes relegated RMC, Blue

Circle Industries and TI

Group; their replacements are

Mercury Asset Management,

British Energy and investment

group, Amvescap. Northern

Rock and Jarvis are among the

FTSE 250 oewcomers with

Ionica and Courts, the retailer,

to 171p after becoming British

operator. Razorback Vehicles

arrived oo AIM, closing oear

its 102p flotation. The com-

pany is based in Australia and

is involved in putting its own

stamp on Volkswagen trans-

Avis Europe motored 9.5p

among the casualties.

Safeway tops investors' shopping lists as bid speculation grows

MARKET REPORT



bid for the Safeway superstores out of steam. But Asda and trading, the shares rose a further 17p to 355p.

In the past few days there has been hectic activity with an array of investors, big and small, seemingly prepared to fill their trolleys in the expectatioo of a strike.

talks with Safeway, remains the predator. But other names featured oo the list of possibles include such unlikely cootenders as Marks & Spencer and Kingfisher.

Yesterday's Safeway excitement coincided with some bearish comments nn industry's leaders. Tesco and J retailers. Kingfisher's third-Sainsbury, from Paul Smiddy of Credit Lyonnais Laing.

should ditch Sainsbury and increases prompted analysts to

raises the possibility of Asda being tempted into a hostile bid. He says Safeway's "dire man-

Safeway was comfortably riding above 400p until last Asda, which held abortive month's profit warning which little changed at £420m. Mr Smiddy is also keen nn Wm Morrison, up 2.5p to a 219p peak, on trading as well as bid prospects. Asda rose 1.25p tn

511p and Tesco held at 506p. Worries about Christmas trading continued to unsettle quarter figures, left the shares trailing 22.5p to 828.5p al-He believes iovestnrs though the 10.5 per cent sales

175.5p, Sainsbury fell 6p to

Speculation about a takeover Tesco as the sector is running oudge profit forecasts higher. was up 20p to 180p as the gening a downbeat review of Sechaio intensified as, in busy Safeway should be held and he the Comet electrical retailing minster pressure and extended off-shoot fused Dixons, off 17p at 618.5p.

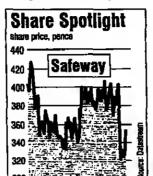
The rest of the market had agement performance" must an uneventful session with put a new perspective on the Footsie off 46.4 points to "putative merger with Asda". 5,130.7, weighed down by New low and engineer GKN lost 46p

Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer where enimplied year's results would be trepreneurial investor Joseph Lewis has a stake approaching 30 per cent, was another caught in bid speculation. On Monday it said talks with an unidentified party had ended. Then came a statement that a "modified" (whatever that means) offer could be under way. The shares rose 31p to 306p. The predator is thought to be rival Sotheby's, itself fearful of receiving a hostile strike, or the

reclusive Mr Lewis Hard pressed RJB Mining

But a subdued performance by erators responded to Westtheir coal supply contracts

A Merrill Lynch downgrading left international trader Inchespe off 16.5p at a 186.5p York and interest rate worries. to 1,264p on BZW caution. ABN Amro Hoare Govett is thought to be near to produc-



curicor, unchanged at 306.5p. Grand Metropolitan and

Guinness moved ahead as analysts warmed to next week's arrival of Diageo. Merrill Lynch sees the shares reaching 625p over the next year and describe the new cocktail as a "premier player"; Société Générale Strauss Turnbull said the shares are a buy. Grandmet rose 6p to 587p and Guinoess 5p to 585p. Allied Domecq, following a presentation oo its franchise opera-

tions, shaded 6p to 535.5p. Financials remained oo a roll, helped by talk of consolidation in Paris with Société Airways preferred car rental Générale thought to be eyeing Paribas, which said it was uoaware of any SocGen interest. BNP was also dragged into the speculation. It was enough to help Barclays put on another 26p to 1,665p.

TAKING STOCK

the pipeline.

Around 4 per cent of Aminex, with oil and gas interests in the former Soviet Union, went through the market, clearing a long-standing overhang. The shares were sold by a Canadian fund which clinched a deal with an institutional investor at 54p against a 60p quote. There is talk the oil group has more encouraging developments in

Waste Recycling firmed to 305p as stockbroker Killik said buy following the takeover of East Waste for £11.9_{HL} The broker believes the deal implies a 350p price.

AIM-listed Compagnie de Participations Financieres (Luxembourg), unchanged at 547.5p, is planning to build 38 apartments in Jersey; unusually they will be available to non-residents. Prices will be up to £425,000.

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Time to turn off the subsidies to well-off homeowners



DIANE COYLE ON FAIRNESS IN THE HOUSING MARKET

The housing market is one of subjects of conversation, at least for anybody in the middle is one of the most important curred during the past 20 years. financial decisions any of us takes, second only to the choice of a pension. It is a big gamble, too, given the violence of typical cycles in house prices.

If you were in a position to huy in the early 1980s, you will still be sitting on a huge capital gain and a large amount of straightforward. Demand is equity. If you bought in 1989, on rising, real incomes are growing, the other hand, you are one of the losers. It is only recently that or less fixed. In the long term, the market's recovery has res- you would expect real house cued a majority of those people prices to grow at about the same lumbered with negative equity. No wonder house prices rank with the weather as one of the British obsessions.

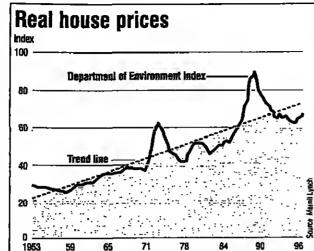
New forecasts this week predict a slower increase in prices next year after the mini-boom of 1997. Both the Nationwide huilding society and economists at investment hank încrease in 1998 at 6-7 per cent after a rise in the region of 10 per cent this year. Even the slower pace will represent a healthy performance compared with underlying inflation likely to be less than 3 per cent.

But prospects in this particular house price cycle, which will depend on how far interest rates need to climh to keep inflation low, are less interesting than the outlook for homeowners in 10 or 20 years' time. A report published yesterday by the Joseph Rowntree foundation addresses the long-term issues and, in particular, what policies the Government should be considering to ensure the sustainability of home ownership.

One of the key factors is the expected rise in the number of households. With a growing number of smaller households. demand for homes is forecast to rise by something over 4 million between now and 2016. This compares with an existing housing stock of just under 25 milthose perennially fascinating lion dwellings. If this 16 per cent increase does materialise, it will be similar in size to the adof buying or selling. After all, it dition to housing that has oc-

It is not too surprising to find that a rise in demand on this scale has been accompanied by a 40 per cent increase in house prices in real, inflation-adjusted terms despite the slump in the early 1990s. The economics of long-term housing trends are yet the supply of land is more rate as real incomes, or 2.5 per cent a year. This is exactly the prediction of Merrill Lynch's economic model.

There are several reasons why this should concern the Government, as the Rowntree report spells out. One is how to meet the demand for housing from those who will not be able Merrill Lynch put the likely to buy their own home. While the rate of ownership might edge higher, it is already high in the UK compared with many other countries. The Government and local planning authorities therefore need to consider how to increase the



expensive and least likely to be

on offer to those at most risk of

interruptions to their income.

The soaring housing benefit bill

of social security spending for the

chop. One suggestion is that it

to avoid a fresh surge in repos-

ing the £3.5hn a year spent on

mortgage interest tax relief and

income support for mortgage

interest into a mortgage pro-

tection premium for low-

income households; and giving

a subsidy for vulnerable huyers

to take out fixed-rate mortgages.

will be part of the solution. So

will an element of redistribution,

for those at highest risk are

those who can least afford to

take out insurance. The rates

charged for insuring low-risk

borrowers will have to sub-

sidise the premiums paid by

considerations there are, too,

questions of distribution and

fairness. Although the share of

Beyond these pragmatic

high-risk borrowers.

Certainly, some kind of gov-

Some alternative is needed

will be capped.

supply of both social and private rented housing.

Although Labour's manifesto promised to allow local authorities to release £5bn over five years for new housing. many housing experts fear the amount actually made available will be smaller. Current plans pencil in spending of £900m by the end of 1998/99, implying a surge to £1.4bn a year after that if the pledge is to be fulfilled and even that might not be enough to plug the gap.

There is also very little discussion in policy circles about how the availability of private rented accommodation could be increased, even though there is a clear gap between the two extremes of the commitment of ownership and the need for subsidised social housing.

A second question is how to adapt the housing market to changes in the jobs market. While employment has become more flexible - or insecure - the patterns of paying off a mortgage have not changed. Most borrowers have loans with a variable rate, likely to rise precisely when the risk of unemployment increases. The two safety nets private insurance and housing benefit - are full of gaping housing in total personal wealth dution, £11.95 + £1.50 p&p. holes. The private insurance is has shrunk, in the long term a 01904 430033.

Interest Rates

home will continue to be an appreciating asset.

In the late 1980s there was much interest in the creation of a new category of the wealthy. those who inherited their parents' homes, especially in London and the South-east. The attention has faded, but the phenomenon has not. As real house prices continue to rise over the years, the wealth penalty for being off the homeownership ladder will grow.

The Rowntree report recommends taxing capital gains on principal homes as the best way to address this. But an alternative approach to the fairness or exclusion issue would be for the Government to formalise the use of housing equity to pay for long-term care or health costs.

If it could ever get round the inevitable middle-class outcry. this could tree government is on the Government's target list funds to pay for the same benefits for lower-income households. But a recent report from the Council of Mortgage Lenders on the potential for "equity-release" loans - offersessions during every recesing each in return for title to the property - notes that the tax sion. The Rowntree report system. DSS rules and suggests two policies: redirect-

consumer credit regulations all

pose serious constraints. The underlying message is that the shortage of supply and the uncertainties of the modern labour macket mean housing policies will need to do something really controversial. They will have to stop subsidising the wellernment backing for insurance off through Miras, the capital gains tax exemption, and even health and social security spending on those with a high-value property asset, in order to direct resources to the minority who can not buy their own castle.

> "Fixed Commitments, Uncertain Incomes: sustainable owneroccupation and the economy" by Duncan Maclennan, Gcoff Meen, Kenneth Gibb and Mark Stephens. Joseph Rowntree Foun-

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



Don Cruickshank, director-general of Oftel, is planning to write a book on his experiences in the media and telecoms industry, I can exclusively reveal. The telecoms regulator hasted a final drinks party for the industry yesterday at Oftel's offices in Ludgate Hill to mark Mr Cruickshank's imminent departure

The nervous author said his only worry was: "I'm not sure if there's a market for a boring telecoms book." Such modesty. He added that he's taking a "gap year" off when he leaves Offel, Questioned further, he became very coy about his future.

Whatever he does, he said that he definitely won't be doing anything in the media or telecoms area for at least a year, as such a potential conflict of interest would offend his personal morality. (It's just as well he didn't go into politics).

His successor at the helm of Oftel has not heen decided yet, although telecoms alicionados say a shortlist of hopefuls is to be drawn up before Christmas.

Amongst the crowd sipping lukewarm white wine at the Oftel shindig were Mike Grahiner, chief executive of freshly floated Energis, and Chris Gent, head of Vodafone. There was also a gaggle of civil servants from the Department of Culture. Media and Sport

Mr Cruickshank didn't say what he was going to call his book. How about "Making the pips squeak"?

Sir David Rowland isn't going to write a book about his five tempestuous years at the head of Lloyd's of London, as far as I know. He is, however, going to take over as the next President of Templeton College. Oxford University's graduate management college. When he dons his mortar board he will be working closely with the newly founded Said Business School, which has close links to Templeton. While the

Industrial Metals

latter, founded in the 1960s with a donation from British-born fund manager John Templeton, will concentrate on postgraduate teaching and links with the business world, the Said school will mostly deal with MBAs.

Having turned around the near-bankrupt insurance market in Lime Street, will Sir David regret swapping the world of Mammon for that of Academe, 1 asked?

that of Academe, 1 asked?
"I'm 64 years old. My time at Lloyd's has been an extraordinary experience. I'm absolutely sure its time for another leader here he says. "I'm just lucky that I'm going to some thing so interesting."

Moving from the dreaming spires to the city of Liverpool, a former Beatles drummer has been made chairman of the trustees of the National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM).

No, its not Ringo, its David McDonnell, national managing partner of Grant Thornton, the accountancy firm. When he was at school in Liverpool Mr McDonnell played the drums twice with the fledgling Quarrymen, a skiffle group who later became the Beatles.

Mr McDonnell claims to have been "roughed up" by fellow pupil John Lennon while attending Quarry Bank School. No doubt the young Lennon got irritated by Mr McDonnell's constant references to contingent liabilities and the like.

Talking of auditors, while the usual pundits have been expressing various degrees of shock and outrage at the revelation that most of South Korea's giant conglomerates have never been independently audited, I see an opportunity for UK Plc.

The Korean economy may have gone pearshaped recently thanks to the currency crisis, but it's enjoyed double-digit growth rates for the last couple of decades. Therefore, why don't we scrap the requirement for independent audits in the UK and unleash a similar burst of growth here? That would save Britain an estimated £4.3bn in audit fees a year (figures from International Accounting Bulletin).

And it gets better. When our "Korean, style" boom inevitably goes phut we can rely on the IMF to bail us out. We had a dry run with the boys from the Fund in the 1970s. Think about it, no more accountants...

Is Bradford & Bingley Building Society's much vaunted commitment to mutuality weakening? The society has appointed Ruth Blakemore, formerly marketing director of Cahle & Wireless, to be its new commercial director. Ms Blakemore, 38, previously spent four years with Virgin Atlantic and five years with the DMB&B advertising group.

I find it hard to believe that such a commercial live-wire has really heen taken on to maintain B&B's traditional worthy-but-dull image. My bet is a conversion announcement in the new year.

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At Bloomberg we don't just

make history every day

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27/RACING

Racing left shaken but hardly stirred

Sheikh Mohammed's threat to quit Britain because of parisitic bookmakers taking the lion's share of racing's revenue has sent shock waves through the sport's disunited ranks.

But, fears Sue Montgomery. his words may ultimately have little impact.

> The reaction yesterday to Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum's strongly-worded threat that his family will pull out of finances improve was, in truth, fairly predictable.

From the racing industry came sage nodding of heads in agreement with the lucid arguments about funding spelt out by the Duhaian cabinet minister on Tuesday night, and those in the opposing trench, Horseracing Board, whose lead-

SS As an owner it is the Shelich's

prerogative to do whatever he wants with his horses. But with

over 400 horses, I suspect the

Maktourns won't get much sympa-thy from either punters or the

small owner who has been strug-

decade. If they withdrew it would

reduce bloodstock prices to a lev-

el more accessible to the small

players have their 'leisure activity

supplemented by punters. As for

his comments about 'bookmakers

owner and why should the big

gling to compete for the last

M BOOKMAKER'S VIEW

There is little doubt that the speech. But in true politician financial structure of racing in ernment and bookmakers leave has brought pleasure to race-

Britain is cock-eyed - the Govthe sport a shade over 1p in the goers, jobs to the racing induspound from betting duty once they have takeo their cuts ~ but the Sheikh was telling us nothing new. The surprise was not ing, the Government and the what he said - for owners, breeders and trainers have been whingeing about low prizemoney for decades - but that he came out and said it.

Together with his brothers. extended family and friends, the Sheikh now forms the biggest British racing unless the sport's and most influential unit in the world. They have pumped billions of pounds into the racing industry in the past 20 years but seen little return on their investment but glory.

Those rallying round his flag yesterday included Lord Wakeham, chairman of the sport's ada Pavlovian defence from ministrators, the British

ever-open pockets', it must be

the tax on tax anomaly that

said that, as usual in this type of

broadside, they choose to ignore

means not a penny from the de-

ductions on racing bets goes into

our coffers. How can the Sheikh

quibble about our business mak-

doesn't supply oil at cost price to the world. We already contribute

from racing to the Levy, equivalent to about £17m s year, 35

David Hood, William Hill

about 33 per cent of our profits

ing a profit? I am sure Dubai

"The current tax regime for betting shops remains severe. As a high turnover, low margin business the impact of VAT, betting duty and Horserace Betting Levy are a burdensome combination on already squeezed profits. Accordingly neither us nor our shareholders consider that current profits are exces-

the one occupied by the betting ership came in for some thinly veiled criticism in the Sheikh's style Lord Wakeham said: "The Maktoum family's investment try, income to the betting industry and tax revenues to the Government, Therefore racbetting industry ignore at their collective peril the forthright views expressed on Sheikh Mohammed's behalf." From across no-man's land

came the plaint of the politically powerful bookmakers, who are quite happy to take horseracing bets but are continuing to develop alternative methods of generating income, like general sports betting and lottery-style numbers games, perhaps the higgest threat.

Malcolm Palmer of Corals said: "Racing is struggling to hold its position of 70 per cent of off-course betting turnover and any overall increase in turnover has been the result of bookmaker initiatives, plus some welcome deregulation which has led to the introduction of oumbers betting and gaming machines.



Sheikh Mohammed (right) and Frankie Dettori lead in the brilliant Lammtarra for another big-race winner for the Maktoum family Photograph: AP

sive for an industry which employs 40,000 people and has an estimated further 60,000 reliant upoo it."

Andy Clifton, on behalf of the country's higgest firm, Ladbrokes, seemed more concilatory: "Sheikh Mohammed has made some serious and wellconsidered comments, particularly drawing attention to the need for the racing and betting industries to work together to improve the well-being of racing as a whole."

Their battle against the betdo it for the aforementioned ting industry apart, the racing and bloodstock industries rarely

present a united front when making representations about where they would not expect reunder-funding to government; the Sheikh likened the different factions to traders squabbling in a souk. And one of the sport's of a paying public and acting as problems is that it is too many things to too many people: a bohby to some, a living to others. Owners, for instance, would undoubtedly like more prize money, but too many of them have shot themselves in the foot empires in Britain, the heart of by insisting that a financial return is not important; that they

glory and fun.

made to joining a golf club, ward for buying a set of clubs and playing a round. But if they were performing daily in front cannon fodder for another huge industry, they probably would.

The Sheikh and his brothers, who fill four of the top five spots on the 1997 owners' league table, have built their bloodstock the thoroughbred world, but they now realise that there may be more attractive playgrounds.

And the implications of their The comparison is often removal elsewhere are im-

mense, not least on the job marhiggest employers in the sport's ket. Sheikh Mohammed alone self-styled headquarters, Newemployed nine trainers - inmarket, a town which would, according the the local council, he cluding Michael Stoute, from whose yard his great internationl

'devastated" by his absence. If the Maktoums pulled out (and they have already disposed of their once pride andjoy, the trade paper Racing Post), racing would undoubtedly continue in Britain.

try's biggest and finest, home to But it would be healthier Precedent and Machiavellian. with them than without them, and the Sheikh's hope must be He has invested huge sums in young stock at auction, invigothat his words are taken serirating the market and enabling ously. But he may find, as have others before him, that he is other breeders to stay in business. He is prohably one of the whistling into the habooh,

TAUNTON

HYPERION 2.35 Weish Silk (nb) 3.05 Indian Run 3,35 King Of The Dawn

GOING: Good, good to soft in places

Right-hand course, Run-in of 150yds.

Course is south of fown on B3170, Taumon station 2m. ADMISSION: Members £11, paticlock £9, centre of course £5; under-16s accompanied free. CAR PARK; Centre of course £3; remainder free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe – 37 winners from '86 runners gives a success ratio of 199%; P Hobbs 22 from 98 (224%); R Hodges 15 from 149 (101%); Misse H Knight 7 from 30 (233%); N Herniterator 7 from 32 (215%).

N Henderson 7 from 32 (219%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 21 winners from 102 runners gives a success ratio of 205%; D Bridgerster 15 from 87 (172%); C Meude 13 from 84 (155%); T Descombe 10 from

50 (10:5). © FAVOURITES: 142 wins in 386 races (36.8%). BUNICESED FIRST TIME: Va Utu (100); Chahaya Timor (130); Master Bomber (205). 1.00 POST BAG SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £1,889 _D Shenkin (7) C Lionelyn 2-6252 THE MEMPER (14) (CD) (G F Edwards) G Edwards 10 10 12 2-36806° COOCHIE (7) (C) (S M McCaustinut) R Saker 6 10 7 -69400 LOYELARK (24) (Harry Stooy) R Brotherton 8 10 7 -69-000 SPLASH OF SLANGHIEY (15) (Gordon C Ford S Knight 8 10 7 -

BETTING: 3-1 The Minder, 4-1 Va Utu, 13-2 Bright Eclipse, 8-1 Priendly House, Rosio-6, Ros Again, Sicophy, 10-1 others 1985: Harry 8 11 "2 D J Burcholl ovens tay (D Burcholl) 9 ran

See: Harry 8 til 12 D J Buchell evers fav (D Burchell 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

Locally-trained The Minider is something of a course specialist and still capable of winring a race of this return at his age, especially the way the weights are framed today. He
raced off a mark off 86 when runner-up to pravious winner Frontier Fight in a mon-soiler
over the ocurse and distance a forthight ago, which is 66 hispher than VA LTU was when
pulled up at Ultionater the same day, in receipt of 715 The Minder is exceptionally was
treated, but Va Utu's run at Ultionater can be forgotten as he was set too strong a pace
under a big weight. The nine-year-old had run his best face in ages when giving Flandunder a big weight. The nine-year-old had run his best face in ages when giving Flandson a fact time in a thandicap at Eister previously. He is being tried in binkers this time
and it anyone can get a race out of hun it is Martio Pipe. Prifacilly House, with its inder
taking 50 off, is potentially better treated than stablemate vis Utu but looks the second
strong and Bright Eclipse may be a bigger danger. Bright Eclipse was having his first run

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from his present yard and would have been second to easy winner Northern Drums here or October under a more enterprising ride. Trying to make a race of it with wide-margin winner Moormaker's image in testing conditions at Chepstow cost Roll Again second place. He and Palace Parade have a seller in them.

SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £4,039 OCLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £4,039

DI ATLANTIC MIST (14) (CD) (The Wardon Partnershyll E fl Mehran 4 11 4. D Safter (5)

GOOD MOONRAKER'S LIBRAGE (15) (What Horse Racing Lid) D Esworth 6 11 4. P Holley

DOPOP ACHIL PRINCE (6) (F1 & STISSY) N Artifle 6 10 2. R Greene

D ANOTHER BILLA (651) (SCAT Howe) H Howe 6 10 12. Mr S Durack (5)

CHAHAYA TIMOR (1982) (PLD) Hestury (7 Surpson 5 to 12. A Thombon 8

DESCOUNTRY (NSS (248) (BF) (3 11 Ryan) 6 Pyat 5 10 12. A Thombon 9

GREY SHOT (F46) (10 STICK) (SSETING 5 12 12. R Durack (5)

HALMANERROR (21) (CASSESS RECING 5 12 12. D Bridgewise

OSCAR ROSE (F152) (1/18 S F Egiphol) (1 Boben 4 10 12. D Bridgewise

SF RIVERS MAGIC (F159) (M R PASSIA) (5 SOR) 4 10 12. W Maiston

SF SORTING CHANCE (28) HS Charton H F162 5 10 12. J F164

45 VILLAGE KING (14) (CAT 8 J Edwards Heathers) P Hottle 4 10 12. C Llowebyn

29-62 WELTON ARSENAL (14) (ROSESS FORTS EXPENSIVE EST 12. G Supple (5)

SHOE SALLY SCALLY (26) Edward F1659 A F1652 5 17 . J Culloty

14 declared

- 14 declared -BETTING: 4-11 Grey Shot, 7-1 Atlantic Mist, 12-1 Halmar

FORM GINDS Even though this tight track may not be the best one for GREY SHOT. It is almost impossible to oppose him on his latticing debut. This classly First stayer – he was short-headed at a Group Two race on soft ground in France in May and rounded off by winning the Group Three Jockey Club Cup in record time - has been entered in far better ra the process of the Court in reach time - has been entered in far better races than the and is in a yard that does well with its few hunders. Attlantic Miss left his obbut run at Exeter behind when getting up to beat Fresh Fruit Daily here a tortinght ago and was reversing earlier form with Village King, it took han a long time to get his head in from and the form of the runaway war of Mooraraker's Minage in a Chepson's seller over an extra three and a half furtings is probably just as good. Sally Seally, highly fined at Cheptenham last time, is open to cropovement, as is Hallmanerror, a fair Flat handcapper up to a mile. Selection: GREY SHOT

2.05 PROPERTY GAZETTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,100 added 2m 3f Penalty Value \$2,931

1	2-25;F	MRS EM (3) (G Z Lize), P Notice 1 20	. Mr J Tizzard (5)
2	62666	MANDALAY (600) The Acat Allercel J Clo 8 17 2 .	C Litywelly:
3		GLENDOE (E) (KC 2 Masserme) A Turnel 6 Ti 7) (Tex) .	S Michell
1	635-40	SMUGGLER'S POINT (22) (D) "V-s V R Hoarel J Sraper 7 7 6	W Manston
5	50330	SUPPLEME FLAME (14) (Farry 7 Cole) of Octo 7 ft 1 .	A Bates (5)
3		DOLCE MOTTE (24) (CD) (Courty States) N Pice 7 10 10	A P McCoy
,	1/06/94	HIGHTOWN CAVALIER (3) (CD) (ASS R Dateon) R Harges 6 TC 8	T Dascombe
3	520-21	WINNOW (7) France Factor Mass 4 Knight 7 10 8	J Culloty
,	-21263	INDIAN TEMPLE (28) (CD) Derek Carter K Estrop 6 to 4	. G Supple (5)
0	/P43-3	OUNNICKS VIEW (15) (= G TLOSE) F TLOSE 5 102.	N Griffiths (7)
П	-03634	MISS SOUTER (58) ! Jan 3-5; h ritine 8 100.	Mr S Durack (5)
2	6212-P	MIRAMARE (165) (BF) (V A Satu A Hotes 7 to 9.	B Ferton
3	P-4UPP	MASTER BONDER (15) 2 7 Feat 7 Amer 6 to 0	P Holley B
ŭ		SEA SCAMP (560) (7 . Martin D 15th 9 100	V Stattery
		~ 14 declared -	
			B

BETTING: 3-1 Glandos, 7-2 Mrs Em, 5-1 Doles Motte, 11-2 Winnow, 10-1 Mendoley, Indian Temple 14-1 Sneogler's Point, Miss Souter, 20-1 Others

FORM GUIDE OOLGE NOTTE is big enough to jump tences and could take some pegging back at the weights if tolong to them night taway. Her second to Blowing Rock over hurdles at Cheltentiam, where she made most and came again, shows what she is capable of when having her own way. It was stone that Mins Em, having been schooled over fences only days before own way. It was stone that Mins Em, heaving been schooled over fences only days before writing a novices' chase assing up at Wincarinon, where she juried wet, should then go and fail at the very first at Ludiow on Monday. Obviously none the worse for that, she was a decent hurder and the 19th she has to concede Doice Notite is reduced 5th by smart amateur Joe Trizzerd. She should go close, Glendoe finety confirmed the promise shown on his chasing debut last season when staying on fair too well for his eight rivate on soft ground over a furborg less at Fortwell last week. Now that the six-year-old has lound his touch he is likely to improve again and has to be a big danger Winnow is an expenenced mare over lences compared to many of these and can be tanced on that score slone. She almost caught No Fridding over a stightly longer ting at Wortester last season and gots enough weight to be in at the finish. Samuggler's Point is a fair hurder who could not be dismissed, as was Mandalay when he last raced two seasons ago.

Selection: DOLCE NOTTE

25 MOTORING GAZETTE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D)

_		£3,700 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,880
	18 532	EVER SMILE (15) (D) (Devol L'Estrange) M Pipe ID 11 10
	36252	PERCY BRAITHWAITE (20) (Class Pig Record) Mass P Whatle 5 to 3 Mr S Durack (5)
	3400.5	JOYIAL MAN (15) (Mrs Berbara Marchant) H O'Subran B 10 12 P Holley
	-P.F.	TORCH VERT (16) (D) (Paul Green) M Page 5 10 10
	27.70	PHARSILK (255) (Mrs. J. Rumford) R Smpson B 10 7
	37.155	COPPER COIL (15) (D) (R A Lloyd) R Subler 7 to 5
	02:31	WELSH SILK (13) (Mrs DE Backshaw) D Genziollo 5 to 4
	2313-4	DEFENDTHEREALM (23) (George Standing) R Frost 8 to 0 Frost
	03-22	COUNTRY TARQUIN (8) (Mes C A James) R Hodges 5 to 0
)	P2172P	ST MELLION LEISURE (5) (St Mellon Estates) N Hanke 5 10 0
	33-F26	RUM CUSTOMER (21) (Mrs Dana Nicholson) C Barwell 6 to 0

Minimum weight 10st True handicap weights Country Tarquin 9st 12th, St Mellion Leisure 9st 12th, Rum Customer 9st 8th. BETTING: 2-1 Torch Vert, 7-2 Welsh Silk, 8-1 Percy Brakhwaite, Joylet Men. Country Tarquin, 10-1 Ever Smile. 12-1 Defendihereaim, 14-1 others 1 Ever Smile. 12-1 Defenditherealm, 14-1 others 1-896 Rose-B 6 9 3 Mr R Thormon (5) 7-4 tav (N Babbage) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Torch Vert is running more like his old self since being held up and visored (as opposed to binkered) and followed his easy Cheltenham win by holding off subsequent scorer Danger Flyin in a driving finish at Wordester. Arthough up 11th, Torch Vert still has a nice roung weight. The hat-finds is very much on and if anything can prevent it it is WELSH SILK chasing a three-time timeself. Having won with plenty in hand over fine furtings less than this at Herekord. Welsh Silk stepped up a furlong and a half at Newbury 13 days ago and got up in the last sindes to pip Stormy Session on soft ground. He needed all of that the and and their may be more improvement to come now he tackles time miles for the first time. Country Tarquin also mes three miles for the first bine and it is likely to suit him. His second to AS Jim over five furlongs less here last month was a nice pipe-opener to the season and it was only in the dying strides that he was louched off by None Strind (who had earlier so nearly caught Spendid at Chellenham) over two furlongs further at Fortivel, the seator's sure to be therestours. There is no guarantee of Percy Braithwalte staying. Copper Coil and Ever Smite seem to have lost their way for the moment, and it may be may Detendithersalim has come on sufficiently for his run at Newton Abbot last month to be a bigger danger than Jovial Main.

Selection: WELSH SILK

3.05 GAZETTE SPORT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m Penalty Value £3,146

champion Singspiel raced, and

John Gosden - to care for

His Dalham Hall Stud in

Newmarket is one of the coun-

stallions of the calibre of Polish

nearly 300 horses this year.

If Vicid Stephens had kicked on between the last two on SPACE CAPPA over the course and distance a fortnight ago she would have beaten Equity Player and Mammy's Choice. As it is, she heshated coming to the final fence and could not get back up on the short run-in, going under by three quarters of a length and a short head. It was still a good run from a horse that had been out in the widerness for so long and Space Cappa may be that vital but fitter this time. Like Mammy's Choice, he will not mitted if any more rain gets the ground Albite cacher is present and no letter in into the ground. Although six lengths behind third-placed Amber Spark and no better in when both were making their seasonal reappearance at Plumpion in October, Mammy's Choice ran the more prominent race and the way she raffed here a forthight ago makes Choice ran the more prominent race and the way are raised nere a rorugin ago maxima her the one to beat agen. The handleopher, his the seaser ground, may have spot timings for Galatzatori Jane and a bigger danger, especially if a came to a stogging match, would be Steephel Jack. The 10-year-old has won here in the past and put in an encouraging reappearance over the course and distance ast month. Fold Greene gots on so well with him. Silverino would only come into it if it was hock deep. Selection: SPACE CAPPA

225 TAUNTON TOPICS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D)

ί	0.00	£3,700 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,794
1	20202	ROBERT'S TOY (37) (D) (Civo D Smith) M Pipe 6 ft D A P McCoy B
2	14-11	KING OF THE DAWN (37) (D) IJ J Boutter) N Mitchell 6 11 6
3	6F-333	NORDANSK (22) (D) (T Smith) M Madowick B 11 8
4	/1226-	NIME O THREE (293) (CD) (Bif) (Sideford Tool Ltd) A Hobbs 8 to 5 A Thornton
5	50/10-	ROUTING (506) (CD) (Detek Jones) N Ayfitte 6 11 1
б	2511-0	BLADE OF FORTUNE (187) (CD) (V D Greenway) V Greenway 8 to 5 Mr J Tizzard (5)
7	341PP;	ROCQUAINE (864) (B Screen) 6 Screen 11 10 D
		- 7 declared

Minimum wegtz: 10st. Tine handcap wegtz: Rocquaine 8st 6ib. BETTING: 2-1 King Of The Dawn, 11-4 Robert's Toy, 4-1 Nine D Three, 11-2 Mordansk, 8-1 Routing, Blade Of Fortune, 25-1 Rocquains. 1996 Out Ranking 4 11 ID R Hughes 4-5 lav (M Pipel 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

KING OF THE DAWN was being pushed atong from some way out and it was only after his stamme came into play that he managed to wear down clear leader F# The B# and then hold Macmons at Exiter on his first run in this country since coming from reland. The form has worked out all right, Macmons going close in a good race at Ascot and F# The B# dotting up at Ptumpton. This tight track might not sut King Of The Dawn, but he is open to improvement and there are question marks over most of his mosts. Alade Of Portune, who has won here and at Newton Albod, is a front-runner with no weight to speak of and resh by difficult to peo hard. Accord the net the first extrements are not and the hose of and can be difficult to peg back. Against him is that this his first outning since early June and his record first time out is nothing to shout about. Nine O Three invariably runs well here but is hitting his first run for Andy Hobbs. while Robert's Toy and Nondanish have not been performing as well as they can.

Selection: KING OF THE DAWN

FAKENHAM

12.40 Highly Reputable 1.10 Scarrots 1.40 in Truth 2.15 Waylarers Way 2.45 Copper Boy 3.15 Frontier Flight

GOING: Good to soft, good in places

Left-hand course. Run-in of 200yd. ● Lett-hand course. Fun-in of 200yd.

Occurse as south of lown oft BTM6. ADMISSION: Members STI, peddock EE. CAR PARK: Free parting available.

● LEADING TRAINERS: J Jenkins - 7 winners from 30 runners gives a success ratio of 18,4%; D Gandotto 6 from 6 (92,7%); Mins O Halan 6 from 2 (22,7%); Forudroscour 4 from 5 (22,7%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 5 winners from 8 runners gives a success ratio of 31,3%; Mr R Wastley 4 from 25 (6%); J A Miccardy 5 from 7 (42,9%), Milchael Bremsen 2 from 9 (22,2%).

● FAVOURITES: 71 wins in 195 races (36,4%).

BLINGERED FIRST TIME: None.

12.40 GB PRINTSELLING HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS G) £4,000 added 2m 259431 ALBERTANE (B) (D) R Judies 6 23 (7ex) Jar D McPhall (7) 1-0011 HOSHLY REPUTABLE (26) (CD) G Brasery 7 7 9 21/14 PHALAROPE (545) (D) (BF) T Etherngton 9 11 7.

234645 JOHN TUFTY (21) (D) J Pezce 6 TO 0. ____ J Ryan 50450 LAURA LYE (20) 8 De Haan 7 10 0 ____ J R Kawanagh 8 0000 MULLINGAR CON (48) B Curtey 9 130. ___ G Hogen (3) 036044 ERICOLIN (8) (D) Mass A Stoke 7 20 X Abap

1.10 EASTERN DAILY PRESS JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000

added 3YO 2m

201 MESTY CAY (26) (CD) Mrs V Ward 11 5 Fl Thomson (3)

CO CANADIAN FANTASY (14) Mrs V Ward & 2 . L Cummun 50 POKER SCHOOL (FUS) N Człaczar 10 2 . . G Bradley SCAPROTS (FS) N Herdeson 10 2 M A Fizzgerald SHARBADARID (F98) 5 Dow 2' 2 D Gallagher
KALINKA (F89) C Egerton 107 JA McCartiny BETTING: 3-1 fele of Corregidor, 9-2 Misty Cay, Scantols, 6-1 Poker School. 8-1 Kallinia, 10-1 Dick Turpin, Oaken Wood, Sharbadarid, 20-1 others 1.40 STEPHENSON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,500 added 3m 110yds 4(5-23 IN TRATH (7) S Galaces 9 12 C 4U5-23 NO FRATH (7) S GOINGS 9 TO NO HORIZON (3)

22-F41 HIGH LEARIE (16) (0) A HIGH-Y (7) TO JA McCarthy

5U1-11 MANOR MEG (25) (C) (0) & Prodromout 10 TO

Michael Brannan (3) V

P361P: CLEVER DICK (994) Mrs L Jevel 12 5/0 D Gellagher 36/P0 CHARLAFRIVOLA (13) T Greathead 9 10 J R Kavanagh - 5 declared -Maximum weight 10st True handroop weights. Clever Dick 9st 9th Citaristmole BETTRIG: 5-4 Manor Mico, 2-1 High Learne, 3-1 In Truth. 16-1 Clever Dick,

2.15 L FIRTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £6,500 added 2m 110yds

3-12-2 LOBSTER COTTAGE [15] (D) It Bakey 9 tl 12

Mr R Waldey (5) 23144 SUPER SHARP (NZ) (282) (D) (BF) 1 Williams 9 11 10 412-5 WAYFARERS WAY (14) (D) N Herderson 6 tt 9 M A Rizgerald 3851-4 WEEHSBY (12) (D) Mass A Stokel 6 11 5 R Thornton (3) 23-455 LASATA (15) (0) FI Carsan 2 10 13 J Power (7)
U152-0 ABSOLUTE LIMIT (35) J Gribro 5 10 12 P Hide
45P-20 SMART LORD (26) M il Bosley 6 10 8 I Lawrence

4P3P34 DAWN CHANCE (10) (D) H Havnes 11 10 0 P.P2P6 HIGHLAND FLAME (16) A Blackmore 8 to 0 P Hanley (3) - 9 declared -

Unempto veryint, 10st, True harquises weight, Highland Flame 9st 12th BETTRIC: 2-1 Wayfarers Way, 11-4 Lobater Cottage, 4-1 Super Sharp, 7-1 Weekeby, Absolute Limit, 10-1 Davin Chance, 12-1 Lesatin, 16-1 others

2.45 SEAMANS-ICI NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 5f 110yds ITIO-1 COPPER BOY (29) (D) R Buckler 8 Tf 4 8 Powell .0P00 JUST A BEAU (311) Mrs L Jewel 6 10 12 O Lealty R0612 STRAIGHT ON (419) (D) Mrs D Hone 6 10 12 G Bridley

6 0.5-32 OWENS QUEST (8) T Ethernigton 7 to 7 . L Commins (5)

- 9 dictared
BETTING: evens Copper Boy, 5-4 Lard Rooble, 10-1 Owens Quest, 12-1

Straight On. 14-1 Aydec, 25-1 Just A Beau.

3.15 CARAVAN SITE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 2m 4f

225-III FRONTIER FLIGHT (14) (D) Miss L Social 7 11 10 O Peers. 30-335 HOLKHAM BAY (22) (BF) L Wordingham 5 tû 0 X Akş P.3451 CROWN AND CUSHION (8) (D) T Greathead 4 10 0...

Magamum wengta. 10st True handidap welights: Holloham Bay 9st 13th, Crow. And Custion 9st 13th BETTING: 9-4 Frontier Flight, 3-1 Crown And Custvon, 6-1 Sigma Whe-less, 13-2 Miss Bertaine, 8-1 Hollcham Bay, 10-1 Northern Star, Vaaillee, 14-1 Salisong.

RACING RESULTS

HEXHAM

12.20: 1. BOURBON OWNASTY (B Storey)
7-4 fast: 2. J. J. Baboo 4-1; 3. Cherming Admiral 2-1 14 ran. 3'/s. 6. [G Richards; Tote: 5340; 17-0; 1530; 520; Dual Forcessi: £530
CSF: Ch.27. Frio: 5380 Non Rumers: Monts, Outers Brigade

12.50: 1. SHONARA'S WAY (Mr R Hale) 7.
1; 2. Cherry Dee 4-1; 3. Yoby 9-1 13 ran. 3-1 lay Doctoresser (4th) nk. 1'/s. (P Montanth) Tota: 51/37; C.230; C.230; S430; DF CoOM; CSF: 5230; Si Fricast: 22384 Frice; 25330; NR: Styleh Interval After a stewards inquiry the 3rd 8 4th placings were reversed.

1.20: 1. BRIXDALE (R Supple) 5-4 fax; 2. Cypresse Avenue 10-1; 3. Royal Spruce 33-1 4 ran. 7, det (L.Umol) Tote: £230; C+40 (250; 5730; DF: (530) CSF: CRSS; NR: Afecal, Frio: 5730; DF: (530) CSF: (530) CSF: (540) CSP: (540)

27-51. I.F. I.S.H. CSF. ETEIS, Pet. ARCAL PRO-ETS-960

1.50: 1. CHIPPED OUT (P Carberry) 5-1:
2. Committed Scheduja 3-1 tay, 3. Marrica 10-1.12 ran. 27. 10. (M Tochunter). Rota: ESS0: E340, E150, E250 DF: PESO. CSF: ESS8 Th-cast: E155.08 The: P48-90 RAF: Mercaldi. 2. Palmogratio Ring 5-1: 3. Racheel's Overn 9-4 tax 8 ran. nt., 2. (B Elbon). Tota: E540: E290 E240, E150 DF: E9150 CSF: E8159 Tri-Cast: E145.77

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Wayfarers Way (Fakenham 2.15) NB: Mammy's Choice (Taunton 3.05)

2.50: 1. RED MARAUDER (I. O'Hara) 8-1:
2. Welsh March 7-2 tav, 3. Cuthill Hope 7-1
13 ran. 8. 1% (N Mason). Res: C530; 22:0,
25.50; 240; DF: C531; C5F: C5838; Trio:
2506; NRS: Forbea, Messic Gory, Shiring Edga,
3.20: 1. THE BUTTERWICK KD (I. Wyer)
evens tav, 2. Fessan 9-2-3. Alphne Hildsmany
10-1-13 ran. 6: (P) Fahry). Totac 5160; C150,
C140; C370; DF: C310; C5F: C358; Trio: C1780.
NRS: Alpine Parnher, Plus Ligana.

lecknot: not won 6:17,517.17 to Teumion Ibday). Vecepot: 6:120. Quadpot: 2570. Vece 6: 644.36. Place 5: 631.22. LEICESTER

LEICESTER

1.00: 1. SECRET GIFT (Mr 5 Durack) 11-2: 2. Come On Penny 10-1: 3. Ending 9-4 6 ram. 11-8 tov Elmoisto (Hin) 24, 24. (Min 5 Durack) 11-2: 10-10 ram. 15-2: 10-2: 10-10 ram. 15-2: 10-2:

2.30: 1. BRECHFIELD FLYER IG Tormey! 9-4 fav. 2. Noftegrify 5-2; 3. Tonks 4-1 5 ran. 1/2. dss. (W Coy). Tota: C360; C230, C10 DF: C260 CSF: C786 £280 CSF: £788 Placeport £10810 Quedport £390 Place 8: £35 ≥ Place 5 £300

LINGFIELD

12.10: 1. WHITE PLAINS (Mr O McPreil) 4-5 lav; 2. Kelli 9-1; 3. Den't Drop Bombs 9-1 14 ma. 11 1- (KBurlet Tate: 02:00; 01:90; 02:50; 02:00 07: 07:90 CSF: 03:02 Treast: PAS:25 Tres: 12:40: 1. SALTY BEHAVIOUR (R Hughes) 4-1; 2. Robelion 11-4; 3. Stoppes Brow 5-4

12.40: 1. SALTY BEHAVIOUR (R Hughes)
4-1; 2. Robellion 11-4; 3. Stoppes Brow 5-4
tay 11 ran. 1, 11/1, [R Harmon]. Tota: 1240;
1250; 210 1:120 DF: 5:40 CSF; 2:413. The
E300 NR: Cheft Ledy
1.10: 1. RESPOND (A Carr) 4-1; 2. Primary
Coloura 5-6 tay, 3. Insplicitly 14-1 8 ran. 1, 9.
(G i. Moore! Rote: 9:420; 2:120; 2:10 E500 DF:
E400 CSF E727. Tricast: 538-49.
1.90: 1. MAREEBA 1/Farmay 7-2; 2. If Destino 11-4; 3. Missiba 14-1 8 ran. 5-2 tay Str
Pror (45); 2.11, (M. Johnson) Tota: E320; 2:50
2:200; 7:050 DF: E370 CSF; 2:336 Tricast:
C11457
2:10; 1. INDIGO DAWN (Dean McKaown)

210. 1. INDIGO DAWN (Dean McKeown)
7-2 km, 2. Meilleur 6-1. 3. Signed And
Seated 4-1.11 ran. 21s. hd. (M. Johnston). Tota:
64:0; 1-10. C20a. 2-70. DF: 82-10. C25:
22305. Tricast: 980.25. Tric. 63750
246:1. OAMONO DRILL. (A Cleft). 5-1; 2.
Red Pepper 33-1, 3. Mee's Back C2-1, 10 ran.
7-4 sev Berk. On Him. 8, rk. (P. Meken). Tota:
8280, 529. Brid. 62-20. DF: 67620 CSF: 6755-4
Tric. 623730
3.10-1. CHIPSTEAD BBY (C. Schill). 5-2 fec. Tro: 23770. T. CHIPSTEAD BAY (C Scale) 5-2 fev. 2. Sale) Jack 9-2, 3. Fayit 6-1 14 ran. 17. 3 (K tory). Tota: 63.0; C120, C220, C250. DF: 800. CSF: E183. Tross: 69178 frio: 9350. 3.40; 1. ITALIAN SYMPHONY (A McCerthy) 6-1; 2. Mccambique 9-2, 3. Bedrinath 6-1 14 ran. 100-30 fav hlyttoris Mistale. 37/. srt-1d. (P Evans). Folia: 62320, 2630, C150, E340. DF: 20150. CSF: 10648. Tricast: 646623. Trics: 52220.

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMERTABLES RESELTS [MARKET RASEN | 971 | 981 TAUNTON 972 FAKENHAM 973 983 0891 261 970 Calls cord Pop per minute, LLS. plc, Schatton & HC2A 49

MARKET RASEN

HYPERION 12.50 Hever Golf Diamond 1.20 Hariequin Choros 1,55 Farney Glen 2.25 Gutteridge 2.55 WADE ROAD (nap) 3.25 Grate Times

GOHNG: Hurdies course: Good to soft, good in places. Chase Course: Soft, good in places

Fight-hand, sharp, undulating crosst. Run-in of one turlong. ■ Fight-hand, sharp, unkhisting cacust. Pun-in of one turions.

■ Course is east of town on A631. Market Rasen station (Lincoin - Galasty-Bre) are ADMISSION: Cub 51250; Tentersals 2650 (CAP - Galasty-Bre) are ADMISSION: Cub half price). CAP PARK: Free.

■ LEADING THAINERS: Mar in Reventry 23-86 (235%), M Pipe 15-87-(24%). J Filodoraid W-85 (165%), K Morgan W-17 (12%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: P News 20-16 (172%). L Wyer 19-99 (192%). A 5 Santiff (172%). B Gardity 13-10 (115%).

■ FAMPISTES: 201-577 (A65%).

BLANGSHED: FREST TIME: Streep John (1950).

BLINKERED FRST TIME: Strong John (1250).

12.50 BOB KETT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS PR-SP TAUR AND FAMICY (47) Mass M Margan 6 12 D E Calleghan
BETTING: 1-3 Hartequin Chauss, 7-1 Milast, 10-1 Finance. Sharley Cop.
20-1 Lord Sabra, Springfield Rhyme. 25-1 To Dam Hot.
20-1 Lord Sabra, Springfield Rhyme. 25-1 To Dam Hot.

Minimum weight. 10st. Thus issurface weight. 17:555-96-20 BETTING: 5-2 Focusit, 7-2 Haver Golf Diamond, 4-1 Estumo Kins, 5-1 Strong John, 8-1 Fair And Fancy, 10-1 Absolute Folly, 12-1 Thansis.

DUCKWORTH FREELANDER 'NATION-AL HUNT NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,700 added 2m 1f 110yds

25:5": HARLEGUIN CHORUS (12) LOS . Pertant Title 54-74C FRANCE (15) F 2007 5 7 2 2 10 10 RD SABRE (32) 2 12 12 15 17 2 2 10 DARN HOT (152) 11 562 7 7 7 2 . D Byrne . R Gamity Z. S NEAAF (ISA) (19) (Lings 5 ... FOU SPRINGHELD RYME (15) 5 3 2 75 5 _ 7 declared -

1.55 DEREK CHARLES AUDI HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,400 added 3m 4f 110vds 1786 FUSSIAN CASTLE (86) J Wade S 12 0

P340-2 DORLIN CASTLE (10) 1 1100-3 1/2 0 E CBB3(NS)
P340-2 DORLIN CASTLE (17) (8F) L Lungo 3 n 1 R Suppli P3L146 FAPNEY GLEN (17) 1 1 O'Nell 10 10 C P Carberry CO-03- SARERIC (358) S Bel 7 10 B 2352 GOLD PIGEON (17) B Schwell 8 to 4 PS40 P MAJORITY MAJOR (28) P Cheesbrough 8 10 2 A 8 Smith 360-32 DEISE MARSHALL (10) J Wade 9 to 1 -7 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Dortin Castle. 3-1 Gold Pigeon, 9-2 Deise Marshall, 7-1 Russ-tan Castle. Farney Glen. 10-1 Sirenc. 12-1 Majordy Major.

2.25 ROBERT PEAK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,700 added 2m 1f 110yds TEST CENTAUR EXPRESS (36) (CD) A Street 5 T T ERV

KILDRUNANY CASTLE (330) 1 FeeGerand No.: F Leeby (3) ~ 5 declared = Mornion segre has the handrap weight successor, feelings the BETTING 10-11 Gutterdoe 9-2 Centaur Express 5-1 Night Dence 11-2 Kildrummy Castle 10-1 Our Kris

2.55 CLUGSTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 1f 110yds 46-222 TEJANO GOLD (USA) (8) (D) P Bradley 7 to 12 . . R Farmen 214-3 WADE ROAD (19) (D) Mess H Knight 6 10 12 J. F Titley

BETTING, evens Zabark, 11-19 Wade Road, 8-1 Telemo Gold.

3.25 CONSTANT SECURITY JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 added 3YO 2m 1f 110yds 2 MANILENO (106) (D) (SF) M Pipe 11 5 R Johnson 46 HOH EXPLORER (12) D Barker 10 12

D NO MORE PRESSURE (14) Mrs J Remaden 10 12... R Garritty SFLBERRY (F26) P Haslam 10 12 _JM Foster 4 SPARKY (12) M W Easterby 10 12 . . P Carbony - 9 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Miss Ondee, 3-1 Manilano, 4-1 Sparky, 7-1 Grate Times, Selberry, 10-1 No More Pressure, 20-1 Arc, 25-1 others

'You're a dirty little so-and-so,' Ramsey said. 'But you can play'

In February 1968, when Sir Alf that have since occurred in football. sent climate, but today's crop should football team, he came across Billy cases around then, but for all his fiery are getting. Bremner in the foyer of a Glasgow reputation, Bremner was not conwas with the ace dribbler Charlie in the Leeds United team of Brem- Leeds in the Don Revie era. Cooke, addressed Ramsey politely. ner's time were those whose ruthclipped way of his, "you're a dirty lit- public. tle so-and-so - hut you can play."

ing the dialogue word for word as Leeds were unloved but they did not though his encounter with Ramsey hold a monopoly on intimidation.

This was not an uncommon fea-

Ramsey was running the England There were many more hard he grateful for the protection they

When mourners gather from hotel. It was a few hours after Scot- sidered in the game to be one of Bremner's funeral today there will land had drawn I-I with England at them. He was too up front for qual-doubtless be some talk about this Hampden Park and Bremner, who iffication. The guys to worry about and what it was like to play against

Like many football managers, "Yes," Ramsey replied in that lessness seldom registered with the Revie was a contradiction of himself as a player. An extremely skilful footballer who was at his best with When Bremner was telling the ture of football in Bremner's day, Manchester City in the deep centrestory a few years before his untimely and the news of his passing set me forward role perfected by Nandor City in the Welsh international, death this week at just 54, repeat- to thinking some more about it. Hidegkuti of Hungary, he teft the tough stuff to others.

Revie huilt skilful teams hut they had taken place an hour before, one

I don't know how some of those

Revie mult skimil teams nut they saw Bremner as the optione of ins a carry damaged collar-done after sensiting down at him.

The don't know how some of those reflected the combination of abilipolicy; skill allied to spirit, passion going into a tackle with Collins, the nent who was smiling down at him. was struck with the many changes players would have fared in the pre- ty and hardness he had admired at



Roy Paul.

Fired by Paul's example. Revie and meanness. Because this was of-

grew up around them.

However, they were unquestionably a great team and Bremner was at the heart of their successes. first with Bobby Collins, then John Giles, who both had to he approached with caution.

sent off at Wembley. With tess than 15 minutes played, the Liverpool full-back Gerry Byrne was left with saw Bremner as the epitome of his a bully damaged collar-hone after self staring at the chest of an opposmallest player on the field.

impoverished circumstances he knew goodness in him to which his friends

On the eve of the 1965 FA Cup came when he captained Scotland against Brazil in the 1974 World Cup around seeking an extension of hostilities. Feeling a pat on the head he turned angrily to find him-

be a roughneck if you grow up in the suited me," he said, "Called me 'Prias a boy in Stirling, and he wasn't. somebody said, "the big guy was pay-Wild, certainly, but there was a and team-mates always testify.

One of Bremner's finest hours it was put to Collins that it would be finals. At the final whistle Bremn- and has only the evidence of videos inadvisable to run the risk of being or was still so fired up that he went to go on, it it is prohably his trucu-

I got to know Bremner quite well Bremner offered an explanation complain about the histility that hut not intimately. You don't have to mo' whatever that means." "Billy," ing you a compliment. He was saying that you were the best." Bremner hung his head in embarrassment. For any Johnny-come-recently

who never came across Bremner until his playing days were long past, lence that springs first to mind.

That is selling Bremner short. I don't know where he fits in the pantheon of outstanding footballers, but as Ramsey said all those years ago, Later, at Scotland's retreat, he could play. Couldn't he just.

CRICKET

West Indies is the prize for rookie captain Hollioake

more circumspect when asked if

he had any aspirations of his own.

"I just want to be involved," he

said. "Td much rather play in a

ing one and I certainly wouldn't

lose any sleep if I wasn't in

charge. To me the captaincy is just

a bonus and a massive honour".

will discover today as England

lock horns with India. The

match, the first to be played

here under lights, will be a use-

ful dry run for the far more am-

birlous series planned next year,

as the ill-fated Disney World

Cup is shifted from Orlando to

BY DEREK

PRINGLE

How much of an honour he

winning side than captain a los-

Today is Adam Hollioake's first international in charge of England. However, as our Cricket Correspondent writes from Sharjah, there is more at stake for Hollioake than the Champions' Trophy.

Over the years, many people have gone into the desert and found themselves and their true vocation in life. The next week will offer Adam Hollioake the selfsame opportunity, as England's team of one-day specialists strive to win the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah.

For Hollioake, the prize could not be higher and unless his team acquit themselves abysmally, the Surrey captain is almost certain to retain the job for the one-day series in the West Indies next April.

If Hollioake does have prolonged designs on the captain-pearance. cy, he hides it well and there are few signs of naked ambition. Indeed, at yesterday's press con- be Dougie Brown and Matthew ference, he was coolly matter of Fleming. As medium-pacers who fact about his mission here as can bat anywhere in the order, England's leader.

lot easier than I thought it would be," he said. "But then the dressing-room atmosphere and team spirit have made my joh a lot casier. In fact I'd say it's easier to captain England than Surrey.

"There's less complex players want to stick the knife in, but everyone here has got aspirations. which makes it a lot easier." Unlike his rough treatment of

medium-pacers, Hollioake was

the Gulf. Apparently, Mustapha Mouse and Abu Dhabi Duck

are booked to make an ap-

Making their limited-overs debuts for England, however, will both men epitomise the multi-Tve found the captaincy a dimensional cricketers who David Lloyd, the England coach. wants in the one-day game.

Brown will take the new hall with Dean Headley, while Fleming will try to ensure that the old travels to the boundary as little as possible, by employing a bewildering array of yorkers, inin this set-up," he said. "I don't duckers and slower balls. His survival training with the Greenjackets will be tested to the hilt if either Sachin Tendulkar or Saurav Ganguly get their eye in.

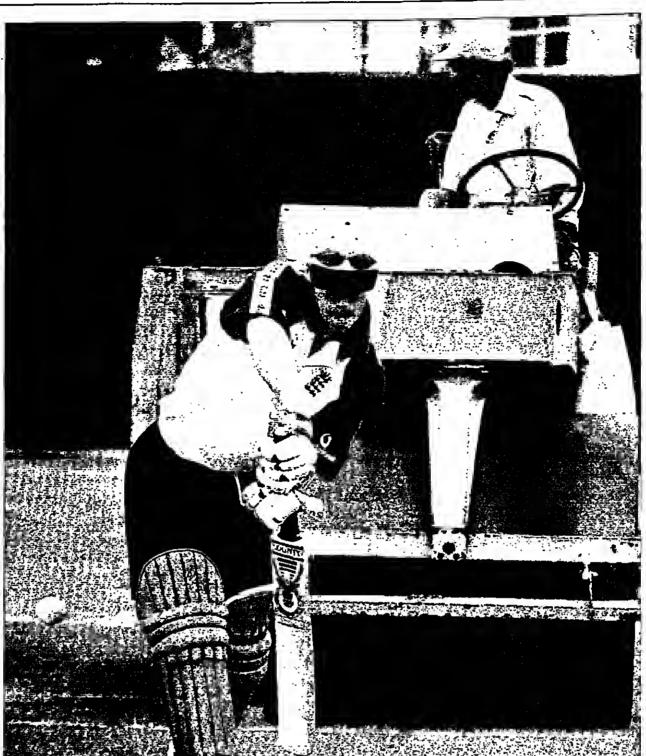
open with the Surrey pair Alistair Brown and Alec Stewart. While the former will probably adopt the hig-hitting style that brought him a century against India at Old Trafford last year the has not played for England since), Stewart will apply the finesse in an attempt to counteract India's formidable new hall pairing of Javagal Srinath

and Venkatesh Prasad. Nick Knight, who will bat at three, spent a long time in the nets yesterday practising his reverse sweep. Clearly, the lefthander is is expecting to face more than one spinner, something England have forsaken by dropping Ashley Giles.

Warwickshire's left-arm slow bowler will joined in his 12th man duties by Peter Martin and Ben Hollioake. However, before cricket fans begin to accuse Hollioake Snr of fratricide, onlookers during England's warmup games in Pakistan thought Hollioake Jar looked out of sorts. Now 20, people tend to forget that last summer was Ben's first full season and it would be surprising if he was not feeling the effects of that.

Mind you, the truth is prob ably more mundane and on a pitch which no one is sure of, England are simply just picking their form players. The pitch is sporting a shave so close it has a sheen like the ones at Sabina Park in Jamaica, and looks full of runs.

As only two strips are being used for all seven matches, wear and tear will become a factor and England will need to amend their team accordingly



The England batsman Nick Knight is dwarfed by a roller during practice in Sharjah yesterday

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hard-up Wigan deny return of Inga

Wigan have played down speculation that their former player, Va'aiga Tuigamala, is poised for a return to the club.

The former All Black left Wigan for Newcastle in a £750,000 deal last year, but he has hinted that he would like to play league again, while Newcastle's expenditure on players of his calibre is far outstripping their income.

The Wigan chairman, Mike Nolan, said that Newcastle had so far paid £150,000 of the fee for the player. "But they are not behind with their payments and we are sure they will make their next payment on time," he

"There has been no approach about Inga coming back. to Wigan, even on a temporary contract, so it is all speculation. If he was available, we would be willing to talk about it."

One factor that could deter Wigan from entering into any more high-priced contracts in the immediate future is the deht of over £4m that the cluh has admitted to, with losses of £2.2m over the last two years.

"It is a sad story of financial mismanagement," said Nolan, who took over as chairman late last season. One possible source of income is the suggestion that their neighbours. Wigan Athletic, could move into Central Park for the 1998-9 season. two clubs will eventually share is being huilt in the town.

"We have had an approach from Latics and it would be a good way of getting the maximum use out of the ground,"

Nolan said. The former Wigan centre. Mike Neal, who played for the now defunct Oldham Bears last season, has joined Salford as a free agent. The signing of the former Great Britain centre. Paul Loughlin, is still delayed while Salford negotiate a fee with the Bradford Bulls.

- Dave Hadfield

Edwards shakes off nervous start to justify her selection

Pete Davies reports from Hyderabad England 94-7 South Africa 87-9 England win by seven runs

England held off a spirited batting charge by South Africa here yesterday to open their World Cup defence with an invaluable win. After overnight rain the pitch was barely playable - parts of the outfield

three matches washed out al- rienced opener Helen Plimmer stepped up to howl a wicket of pressure." she said. "South ready and the television cameras in attendance, play had to go on. a decision that proved justified.

When batting, England will

Neither captain was keen-"it is a little bit foolish," South Africa's Kim Price said - hut no produced a thrilling if inelegant game of 20 overs each.

an increasingly fluid and commanding 38 off 50 balls. Edwards

one was injured and the two sides more experienced bowler," Ed-

Price won the toss and put England in, and after a nervous start 17-year-old Charlotte Edwards from Huntingdon ran up

because she also bowls leg-spin. "I thought once it got to the

end, the captain, Karen Smithies, would hring on a wards said. "But I suppose she thought that a leg-spinner would suit the Indian wickets."

After their slow start, Engtand's 94 for 7 looked eminently catchable. South Africa went off like a train, thrashing 42 off the first 7 overs - then Yorkshire was preferred to the more expe- leg-spinner Kathryn Leng way, and we held up well to a lot

maiden and gave away only two singles in her next 12 deliveries. With Melissa Reynard putting in a tidy spell at the other end, South Africa were on the hack foot, and started losing wickets.

England held on to win in a tight finish, Edwards taking three wickers to collect the player of the match award - or, as they feichingly call it here, the "Eve of the match". Megan Lear, the England coach, was delighted. Twenty-over games can go any

Africa are a very good side, but this is the World Cup. If you've got to play, you've got to win."

This was a crucial first game in the tournament for England. They now have a three-point lead over the other Pool A teams, including third-ranked Australia. whose games in Mudras and Bangalore were rained off. Organisers are awarding three points where games are aban-

Cotton, Ebury Press. £14,99).

doned and six points for victories. The Indians were delighted just to have got a game on at all.

only a few hundred, the presence of government ministers, and local journalists should spread the word that this World Cup is finully under way. And so are Eng-

istan, leaves at 5.30 this morning. Brittin run out.
Edwards st Terblanche b Price
Daniels low b Kotze
Metcalle c Terblanche b Price Cassar run out . Smithes c Offiner b Kuylaars . Leng st Terblanche b Eksteen I Reynard not out

land - their train for Vijayavada,

and tomorrow's game with Pak-

Fall: 1-14, 2-22, 3-33, 4-68, 5-69, 6-92, 7-92. Did Not Bat: S Redfern, C Taylor, D Con-

Olivier at Cassar b Smithes ... Akihurst c Danels b Smithes ... Akihurst c Danels b Smithes ... Cassar b Smithes ... Cassar b Smithes ... Caing c Danels b Leng Tell feld run out Terbianche b Connor Terbianche b Connor b Edwards Kuylears b Edwards Kotze st Cassar b Edwards Proce not ... Paril: 1-10, 2-10, 3-30, 4-42, 5-46, 6-56, 7-58, 8-61, 9-86. TODAY'S NUMBER

27,411

The number of career points scored by Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan, following Tuesday's win over the New York Knicks. This puts Jordan third on the alltime list, behind Witt Chamberlain (31419) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387).

Barnes finds treasure in the deep waters of Bath as Lions suffer from overpopulation

trary career as an occasional England outside-half. Stuart winners in their decade-long Barnes seldom wavered in his heyday. The centreplece is an profound commitment to the absorbing 40-page discourse virtues of champagne rugby on the decline and fall of Bath (not to mention claret rugby, cognac rugby and good, oldfashioned best hitter rugby).

However, beneath the bon viveur's exterior beat a heart of purest dog-eat-dog amhition. Barnes understood the forces

stream, £14.99), was a surefire able and suicidal - and while his coaxed more from two of the Stoughton, £16.99), the man-effort called Glory, Glory Lions card for all it is worth.

his beloved cluh were surefire as the most successful, trophyladen side in the history of the English game and, quite frankly, it knocks spots off anything

written on rugby this year. That includes substantial chunks of the Barnes book itself. at work in his natural habitat. He is typically opinionated, but the Bath dressing-room, better generally unilluminating on the than anyone, largely because he Rugby Football Union's whitewas responsible for setting knuckle ride over broadcasting many of those forces in motion. rights - given his high-profile and It is, therefore, safe to say disgustingly well-paid television that his third book, Rugby's role with Sky, anything more New-Age Travellers (Main- would have been both remark- pahle journalist. Certainly, he

and Lions campaigns are entertaining enough, he breaks little new ground. So what? The chapter on

Bath takes the reader into very deep waters indeed and succeeds on any number of fronts: as a cautionary tale of the perils and pitfalls of professionalism, as a study in sporting naheré, as a moral fable on the vulnerability of long-cherished friendships in a winner-takesall environment. As usual, Barnes wears his literary learning loudly - there are, it seems, references to everyone from Aristotle to Zola - but he also reveals himself as a highly ca-

plot, Brian Ashton and Tony Swift, than any number of hardened Fleet Street veterans.

the captain (The Lions Raw hy Martin Johnson, Mainstream, Barnes must have been £15.99), the bounty-hunter tempted to give last summer's (The Lions Diary by Jeremy Lions triumph a wide berth, if Guscott, Michael Joseph,

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

by writer in Christendom was ons Uncaged by John Bentley. doing a number on the tour. Chameleon, £12.99), the com-We now have definitive tomes, mentator (Best Seat in the most of them ghosted, from the House by Miles Harrison, Aucoach (Heroes All by Ian McGeechan, Hodder and ous, Boy's Own Annual-style

only because every other rug- £16.99), the tour headcase (Lirum Press, £14.95) and a curi-

During his notoriously con- winner from the outset, just as summaries of the Five Nations central figures in the Bath ager (My Pride of Lions by Fran (Chris Dighton and Jain Spragg. Bookman Projects, £9.99). Overkilt? You could say. At this rate, we will soon have a sixth Spice Girl called, um, Lion Spice. Generally speaking, this tor-

rent of print covers the subject with so little imagination that the already well-trodden ground is beginning to resemble the Old Muckyduckians training pitch on a wet Wednesday night. The various books do, how-

ever, reflect the characters behind them: if Cutton is hluff and to the point and Johnson abrupt and determinedly unromantic. Harrison gives us an engagingly breathless fan's eye-view. while Bentley plays the madeap

England captain, is also on the shelves (as opposed to on the shelf, like one or two fellow Wasps who have seen their Test cureers disappear in a puff of acrid smoke over the last month or so).

In Diary of a Scason (Virgin. £16.99), he gives his personal account of a campaign in which he lost out to Phil de Glanville in the national leadership stakes but won just about everything else; notably the Courage League title, a Lions Test place and lashings of respect.

Again, the publication accurately reflects the subject. Dallaglice is up front and honest on a number of tricky issues. including the captaincy business

Lawrence Dallaglio, the and the extremely serious spat hetween the RFU and Epruc the senior clubs pressure group, and his insatiable competitive spirit is apparent in every sentence.

Just a couple of points. Firstv. Barnes is probably better on Dallaglio than Dallaglio himself (a revealing chapter in Rugby's New . Ige Travellers tells us much of what we need to know). Secondly, it would have been nice of the publishers to have at least acknowledged the existence of Dallaglio's collaborator, Barry Newcombe, the former Sunday Equess correspondent. After all, it was Newcombe who wrote the thing and he delivered a very decent manuscript.

- Chris Hewett

ion sack Stuart after mits taking cocaine Hard-up

Wigan deny

₩OOTBALL

Villa able to progress from position of strength

Aston Villa kept English Interest in the Uefa Cup alive until next spring by seeing off Steaua

Bucharest. What's more, says Phil Show, they played with the head as well as return of Inga

First came Bordeaux, then Bilbao and now Bucharest. No wonder Brian Little, on being asked who he hoped Aston Villa might be paired with in the draw for the Uefa Cup quarterquipped: "Blazio would be

The possibilities for Villa, after their 3-2 aggregate defeat of Apart from Lazio, Internazionale advanced by overturning a 2-0 deficit against Moscow, Auxerre and the holders, Schalke 04, also lie in wait,

last season's embarrassingly early exit against Helsingborgs of Sweden, they have clearly learned the importance of patience and possession. Even with only 20 minutes of the tie remaining, and the Romanians clinging to a 2-1 first-leg lead, they maintained shape and dis-

As chances went begging, Villa might have been tempted to wonder whether the absence of Dwight Yorke would be critical after all. Suddenly, they scored through Savo Milosevic, who also contributed the win-Taylor's late breakaway meant United.

Villa did not have to rely on their away goal.

Milosevic, whose first name is chanted mockingly on Midlands grounds when a striker miscues hadly, is frequently linked with moves abroad. Benfica are the latest to declare an interest. Yet on Wednesday's form the Yugoslav is an asset, and he certainly talked as if expects to he around for the next round in March.

"Villa Park is becoming a place to be feared when clubs come here in Europe," Milosevic said. "Nobody will want to draw us when they see the finals next Wednesday, quality of the teams we've put out. Our second-half performance was probably our best as a team all season.

As heroes and Villans go. Steama, are mouth-watering. Taylor is of the unsung variety. When Villa last played in the quarter-finals, 20 years ago, he watched from the Holte End as Strashourg, while Spartak they went out to Barcelona. Five years ago, he was still working as a forklift-truck driver and Villa need fear no one. Since turning out for Moor Green. Having scored at home to Bilbao, he could have had a hattrick against Steaua.

Little said: "I thought about keeping the 11 who fin shed against Coventry, with young Lee Hendrie in for Dwight. But Ian was free from suspension and he's so important to us in Europe. He gets a foot in and breaks the game up in midfield as well as getting forward so

Villa will have scant opportunity to rest on their laurels. Their perplexingly indifferent Premiership campaign resumes ner against Bordeaux, and Ian next Monday at Manchester

Charlton sack Stuart after he admits taking cocaine

Charlton have sacked Jamie club is also almost certain to ap-Stuart after the player admitted taking cocaine and marijuana after failing a drugs test earlier this month. Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said "the shadow of suspicion" hanging over the rest of the cluh left him with no option.

However, Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, firmed as assistant to the new said: "We do not want to encourage the sledgehammer approach of terminating the contract of a player who has tested positive for drugs. We feel it is a dangerous precedent for Stewart Houston last month. other clubs to follow, as we believe they should be looking to help rehabilitate players."

Everton's hopes of exchanging Andy Hinchcliffe for Derby's Dean Sturridge may have hit a stumbling block because the Derby manager, Jim Smith, rates his forward as £2m better than the Goodison Park defender. A £4m deal had been suggested.

would want cash as well. Acress the city. Liverpool are giving Neil Harris a week's trial to assess a possible £100,000 move from Cambridge City. The peal against the Department of Employment's decision to refuse the United States goalkeeper Brad Friedel a work permit.

John Aldridge, Tranmere's player-manager, has signed a two-year extended contract which will keep him at Prenton Park until June 2000.

John Hollins has been con-Queen's Park Rangers manager, Ray Harford, Hollins stepped up from his position as reserveteam coach to act as caretaker manager after the departure of

Middlesbrough's Craig Harrison has escaped a three-match ban after referee Mike Fletcher admitted he should not have sent him off at Ipswich last Tuesday.

Sheffield Wednesday are giving a trial to the Slovenian international striker Primoz Gliha. while the hottom-placed Premiership side, Barnsley, have taken a 24-year-old Estonian inbut Smith said yesterday that he ternational, Marek Lemsalu, on a week's trial.

Bristol City have put their leading scorer, Shaun Goater. on the transfer list after he rejected a new contract.



Colin Jackson watches Tatum Nelson, a student at Bath, training yesterday. Both are benefiting from the university's athletics facilities Photograph Peter Jay

Bath's model environment for élite athletes

Britain's former chief coach, Malcolm Arnold, is buying a house in Bath. So is Colin Jackson, the IIOm hurdles world record holder. Mike Rowbottom finds out why.

There is a sign which greets the £6m Sports Training Village at Bath University: "Sydney Olympics 2000. Will you he there?

Yesterday's launch of an élite athletics programme at the university confirmed that those getting a regular view of er to run in Britain again. this written challenge.

Arnold, who recently left his job as the performance director for British athletics to assume charge of the new programme at Bath.

the Olympic question is an unequivocal "yes".

by Harlequins for their London

derby with Wasps on Saturday.

Quins' training sessions in recent

weeks, during which time he has

been ill. and the Quins coach.

Andy Keast, said: "We have a

strict policy that first-team play-

ers must train regularly with their

colleagues. We're professionals

now and practice needs to be 100

will be out of action for three

mouths after undergoing

surgery on both his legs. Beal

had repairs carried out to a torn

tendon in his right knee and shin

Gloucester have signed the

Newbury wing Brian Johnson

splints in his left leg.

Northampion's Nick Beal

per cent without absentees."

Carling has failed to attend

Carling dropped by Quins

Will Carling, the former Eng- on loan and plan to thrust the

land captain, has been dropped prolific try-scorer straight into

RUGBY UNION

As far as the 30-year-old former world champion is concerned, what is happening to him now feels like a fresh start after a period of time when his enthusiasm for the sport hit an all-time low.

"Mentally, I feel like I am returning after two years off," he said. "In a way, it has extended my career." The roots of Jackson's dis-

illusionment lay in the events of every competitor who enters 1995, when he was one of several top athletes, including Linford Christie, who were in dispute with the British Athletic Federation over appearance fees. In Jackson's case, there was a big row with the then head of the BAF. Peter Radford, af-Colin Jackson will be among ter which Jackson vowed nev-

It was a measure of Jack-Cardiff to work more closely had an operation two months him for nearly two years.

"It should have been done 18 months ago," he said. "But when I got injured again, I And Jackson's response to thought: 'It doesn't matter. I for the sport any more'. Get-

Allied Dunhar Premiership ac-

tion at Newcastle on Sunday.

transfer-listed England A play-

er Richard Butland for the Pre-

miership game against the

leaders, Saracens, at Watford.

Butland plays as Mike Catt is still

recovering from concussion suf-

European Conference or-

ganisers have announced that

the final on 1 February will be

staged in England if Newcastle

week. Headingley, home to

Leeds rugby league club, has

been chosen as a provisional

venue, although if Falcons lose.

the final will be staged in France.

fered during England's defeat by

South Africa 11 days ago.

Bath have recalled their

ting it done was a hig positive sign for me."

The 1996 Olympics were a disappointment, but he roused himself to earn an unexpected silver medal at this summer's World Championships.

His Athens performance was a reaction to a set of circumstances which left him facing the same problems. He has responded in two ways. He no longer has a con-

nection with Nuff Respect. the marketing company he set up with Christie, hecause he says it was taking up too much of his mental energy. And he has now realigned

himself on a permanent basis with the coach who guided his career from its earliest days. "I had a number of facilities available in Cardiff, but the

Jackson is relocating from son's disillusionment that he main problem was that I didn't her athletics training. have my coach there," Jackson with his coach. Malcolm ago to remove cartilage in his said. "It is difficult when you knee which had been troubling are training on your own even though you can follow a specific programme you are not sure whether you are doing things right.

"I have always wanted to be don't have that much of a care part of something like this, which is being developed

Graf returns

for Australia

launch her faltering career.

TENNIS

along the same lines as colleges in the last year, providing a in the United States, where all your requirements - track, weights, sports medicine - are in the same place."

Jackson is one of four athletes so far recruited to what will be an élite group of 12 at the facility, which was funded by the National Lottery and commercial sponsorship. The others are sprint burdler Jacqui Agvepong, Allison Curhishley, the 21-year-old who is attempting to fill the gap Sal-

dles, and lan Mackie, the British 100m champion. Also taking advantage of the facilities is 18-year-old Tatum Nelson, ranked in the top four European juniors at 100m, who is studying for a BSc in Sociology alongside

ly Gunnell has left in 400m hur-

Bath was unsuccessful in its hid to become the site for Britain's proposed National Academy of Soort, but is awaiting an invitation to become one of the main regional satellites within the new framework.

It has already put itself on the sporting map by hosting the 1995 Youth Olympics and,

BASKETBALL

Travel takes heavy toll of Towers

Leicester City Riders' status as underdogs in the semi-finals of the Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup is undermined by the punishing schedule being endured by their opponents, London Towers.

Towers, the Budweiser League leaders, stay favourites to eliminate Riders, currently 10th. But both tonight's first leg at Wembley and next week's second leg will be played within 24 hours of London's return from sapping and now pointless trips in the European Cup.

London returned yesterday from an 85-70 defeat in Hungary against Honved Budapest, having already failed to qualify for the knock-out stage after losing eight of their nine group

Next week Leicester have home advantage the day after London return from completing their European travels against Rhondorf in Germany.

Typically, the Riders coach, Boh Donewald, refuses 10 pump up his team's chances: "1 think we're in over our heads, but we just have to come out and fight. We definitely need to produce more than we have against London in the past."

Riders are appearing in their first semi-final in five years, whereas Towers' coach. Kevin Cadle, is attempting to win the cup for the fifth time in nine

Derhy Storm have completed the registration of the 6ft 9in Canadian, Brendon Graves, to replace DeRon Rutledge. who has failed to recover from injury. Graves will make his dehut no Saturday at home to Towers, their third game in

- Richard Taylor

SAILING

Conner's fear of Whitbread

A warning that the America's Cup is in danger of losing its pre-eminent position to the British-founded Whitbread Round the World Race has come from Dennis Conner.

"I can see the Whithread taking over from the America's Cup as the premier event in the world of yacht racing," said the man known as "Mr America's Cup", who is in Fremantle to see his yacht. Toshiba, start the third leg of the Whithread on Saturday.

"There's a huge void that the America's Cup used to fill, so the top spot is there for the taking," he said, expressing dissatisfaction at the television package that has been put tugether for the next cup in late . 1999/2000. The package is making it difficult to attract sponsors which could sink many syndicates.

Conner was sceptical about his own ability to raise the cash needed to be on the start line for day. The climax will be run on the the elimination trials due to hegin in October 1999. The syndiwith the finalists riding their cates have only until September own and each other's horses. next year to put the bulk of the budget in place. "By then we will know who is not in." he said.

A third Frenchman is to join trian world through his horse- the Whitbread race leader. In novation Kvaerner. Schastien Destremeau will line alongside Pierre Mas and Jacques Vincent for the leg to Sydney, following the departure of lan Walker. --- Stuort Alexander

ed youngsters. As a model, it echoes those pioneered in eastern Europe 20 years ago. as Palmer acknowledges, "It's

like East Germany without the

drugs," he said.

base for the national swimming

coach, Ian Turner, and six

Olympic swimmers, including

silver medallist Paul Palmer.

letes like it has worked for

Palmer, then everyone will be

happy. "Being here has dra-

matically changed everything

for me," said Palmer, who

added two golds and a bronze

to his collection at the Euro-

pean Championships this year.

the 23-year-old was having to

get up to train at 6am in a 25m

school swimming pool, in order

to avoid the children who pop-

ulated it during the day. Things

have now changed. "The pub-

lic have to fit in with us at the

pool we have here," he said. "1

.can train at any time I want to."

being set up in the same way

as the swimming, encompass-

ing all levels from the elite

down to a scheme for talent-

The athletics programme is

Back home in Lincolnshire,

If Bath can work for the ath-

Millennium's new kind of show

times, missed the second half of this year with a knee injury, and her ranking has slid to 28. Graf will join the defending

champion, Martina Hingis, the tour-times winner Monica Seles and the American Venus Williams, the US Open finalist, at Melbourne Park from 19 Folcons beat Agen on Saturday January. All the men's top 10 will ap-

pear, with defending champion and world No t. Pete Sampras, and Australia's US Open winner. Par Raher, at the head of the list.

EQUESTRIANISM

A new equestrian fixture, to be possibly three) of the NEC

Steffi Graf, the former world No 1. confirmed yesterday she will use next month's Australian millennium. Initially called Open as the platform to rethe New Millennium Horse Graf, winner of the event four . Show" (subsequent ritles will be updated to give the year in which the event takes place lit is due

> Jon Phillips, managing director of the event, is aiming to "redesign" horse shows for the 21st century. "This will not be a horse show as people have come to expect but a show with horses - equestrian entertainment." Phillips said.

held annually at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, is already scheduled for the next "Pageant 2000, incorporating

to run from 3 to 6 August, 2000.

Plans include an indoor cross-country competition, over a course which Mike Tucker has agreed to design, using two [or

halls. The course would also be used to stage contests for other disciplines, such as driving and working hunter classes. Phillips will be working to-

wards "the Wimbledon principle" for show jumping, so that a champion emerges on the final World Championship formula, This brave new venture is

likely to to cost £1.5m to stage. Phillips, known to the equesbox and rescue company, believes that it will he largely self-financing, with sponsors for individual classes and

- Genevieve Murphy

SNOOKER

Sweet moment for Hamilton

Anthony Hamilton, the world brown but left himself an awk-No 14, reached the final eight ward shot on the blue. He took of a ranking tournament for the victory over Jason Ferguson in the German Open at Biogen.

"It was long overdue hus hopefully now I can get on with the rest of my career," the Nottingham player said. "Had ed to play well after the interl lost today, I would have probably been called the higgest twitcher in history."

four frames before launching a me, he just took his eye off the comeback. He made breaks of ball." 38 and 72 to reduce Hamilton's done the hard work by reach-

careful aim using the rest, potfirst time yesterday with a 5-2 ted the ball and the pink was a formality to take the frame 61-43 and the match. "Had it gone 4-3. I don't

think you could have called it," Hamilton said. "Jason startval and got his arm going. 1 began to get tense and I didn't feel Jason was going to miss in Ferguson lost the opening that last frame. Thankfully for Victory was doubly sweet for

lead to just 4-2. In the next Hamilton after losing 9-8 to frame he appeared to have Stephen Hendry in the last 16 of the UK Championship when ton's reward is a match with John Higgins on Friday for a place in the semi-finals.

27.411

SPORTING DIGEST

Badminton Badminton

WORLD GRAND PROCEMALS (Jakarta, Indon) Henry singles Group A: P Gade Christeneth (Den) to A 34 sector (Indon) 7: S 5-8

5-2 Lio Yigang (Chir) to 3 Samoos (Indon) 7: S 5-8

5-2 Lio Yigang (Chir) to 3 Samoos (Indon) 1: S 5-8

5-2 Lio Yigang (Chir) to 3 Samoos (Indon) to 4 Hard (Indon) 5-11 S-11: Sen Jun (Chir) to 1 Samoos (Indon) 5-11 S-11: Sen Jun (Chir) to 1 Samoos (Indon) to 1 P Resmussen (Den) 5
2 5-7: Chorg Jong (Chir) to 1 Henry (P S Hoyer to 1 June) (Indon) to 1 Hyliaga (Indon) 5-6 7: Hyliaga (Indon) 15-7 5
2 Western's eingles Group 2: Zhang (Indon) 1 Los Wess (Chir) to 2-6 Group Incon) 10-1 Wess (Chir) to 2 Samoos (Indon) 1 Samoos (Indon) 11-3 11-6 Group Incon) Incon) 11-3 11-6 Group Incon) In

Basketball

MBA: Charlotte 95 Toronto 62; Westington 120 New Janey 99; Marel 97 Adams 51; Deltot 92 Derver 63; Chicago 100 New York 62; Sastile 108 Microsom 95; LA Chicago 99 Delas 92; Houston 108 Sent Antonio 76; Phoesix 107 Van-COUNER 85; Sarpanierao 113 Ugah 101

Bowis : CIS INSURANCE SCOTTISM MASTERS (Contribute Semi-limit: J Price (No.) bt G Returning, Sen) 7-5-7-7-3; R Cosse (Sco) bt No.01 (Sco) 7-2-4-7-7-5; Final: Price bt Cosse 7-0-7-3-7-4.

Scotland will meet Chile as part of their World Duty preparations on 24 May. The maigh will term part of a three-match four of the United States. A home riendly with Denmark in March and an away trip to Finland in April have already been pencilled in. Richard blourd is to be given a free transfer by Bradford City after the Foot-

ball Leadup upheld his appeal, find-

ing the club had acted unreasonably in terminating his contract after the 24-year-old defender had pleaded guilty to two charges of common assault. Plymouth Argyle have released their striker Neil Biman to avoid paying an extra £15,000 instalment, due if he had made two more appearances, on his transfer fee to the UniBond League plub, Eastwood Town.

Jimmy Mulien, the former Blackpool and Burnley manager, has taken charge of the GM Vauxhell Conference cub lettord United in succession to

CILD sessor United in buckession of Sieve Deley, FA CUP Third round: Fhaure changes: Sim 4 Jan: Chelses v Manchesser Utd., Eventon v Newcaste: Wimbledon v Wresham, Mon S. Jant Tottenham v Pulliam (all moved from Sat 3 Jan). Newcassila: Wimblecton v Wresham, Mon S. JimiTotischam v Fulkam (all moved from Sat 3 Jan).
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Ueda Cup
Third round second leg: Aston Viaz Steam
Buchares () pags 3-2); Alleiton Machid I v Croetie Zagreto () pags 3-2); Lazon I Rapid Vienne () pags 3-01; Soziale 04 2 Braga 0 legg;
3-01; Spartak Moscor 1 Kaskouhe 0 faet egg;
3-02; Spartak Moscor 1 Kaskouhe 0 faet egg;
3-03; Spartak Moscor 1 Kaskouhe 1 faet egg;
3-04; Spartak Moscor 1 Kaskouhe 1 faet egg;
3-05; Spartak Moscor 1 Kaskouhe 1 faet egg;
3-06; Carista 1 Makas 1 faet egg;
3-06; Spartak Moscor 1 Makas 1 faet egg;
3-06; Moscor 1 faet egg;
3-07; Moscor 1 faet egg;
3-08; Spartak Moscor 1 faet egg;
3-08; Moscor 1 faet egg;
3-08; Moscor 1 faet egg;
3-08; Moscor 1 faet egg;
3-09; Mos

Representative Mater: Or Warrens League 20 1 FA 21 per Gloucester Cryl Unifield League Premiser Division: After an Or Hyer 6 Probley a Wireston 2; Harries 3 Aumorpton Sanley 1; Funcon 3 Lamaster 0. Untiffic First Ovision Cup first round: Postponed: Wirom Inford Second round: Better 3 Buston 2 Droyleden 4 Fibron 2 Harries Better 3 Buston 2 Droyleden 4 Fibron 2 Harries League Melland Divisions Postponed: Suctor Cooffed y Starber Second Cooffed 2 Starber Second Cooffed

stem (MCA 2 John O Hate Begins to Ministonie House Begins Ha 3 Whiteham : Winstonie Ministonie Mini round: Sacrood 0 Electrini: Electric Chri Arsendii: Oberns Park Pangers 2 Scumere 2, Parmound 5 Edeam 3, Woodhibe 2 Webing 2. reproduit a resident instruction 2 weed und 3 Second-round replays. Instruction Scattled Util & Orysta Pauloe 2 Normal

NHL Commit 7 Vancturer is Deigery 3 Nº 5. letters 1, Processor 2 tos 4-yales 1

ice hockey

Ordination a Martines League Militard Division Prosponed: Suran Confied visitation Prosponed: Suran Confied visitation Responed: Suran Confied visitation Responed Division Prosponed north Fisher Athletic 2 Chelmstrat City 6: Grantiam 3 Resurds 3: Surton Cecified 4 Bisterial 0 Riyers League Prist Division: Berknemsted 4 Alderstor 2 Third Division: Factived Health 1 Harlow 3: Ford Unit 1 Scannal 1: Visitar 1 League Cap Second round second log: Abertyste vir 0 2 both Vale 0. Jesson Eastern League Premier Division: Surdoury Vandarers 4 Scham 1 League Cup second round Great Varnouth Collection Surdoury Vandarers 4 Scham 1 League Cup second round Great Varnouth Collection 1: Surdoury Town 2 Norwert Unit 0. Typine 1 Woodbruge 2. Jesson Wesser 10 Health Promision: Amold Schamath RN 0 Newtony 2 Northern Counties East League Premier Division: Amold 3 Harbelt Man 1 Interlink Express Militard 3 Harbelt Man 1 Interlink Express Militard Affancts: Kings North of Stapental 2 West Affands Robert 1 Earwel 0 United Sussex County League Frist Division: Region 1 and round. Burgess: 13 Whitehalwin 1 Winston-Region Ranspale

LITTLEWOODS: Troble chance: 24pts
\$107605.23 \$1375.22 \$170. Half-time result:
21pts \$2375. Four draws: \$155 Alline homes:
\$\text{\$\text{All of Price always: \$155 Alline homes:}}\$
VERNONS: Troble chance; (most dwinderst carrielled as rinous rave been less man \$11.24pts
\$23056.23 \$125 Super Shots: \$1766 (pand on Price correct) Premier 10: \$7350 (pand on agrit
correct). Correct)
25TTERS: Trable Chance: 24pts \$1825, 23
27 Four aways: \$150 Eight homes: \$2.50
6out draws: \$2.48 draws trable phenos: 24pts
\$230 Fast Phre: \$133
6 SRITTERS: Trable Chance: 24pts \$250
Four draws: \$3. Five sways: \$530. Eight
homes: \$253 Rugby League Nathan Sylves, the former Great Britain under 21 prop lorward, has signed a new two-year commant with the Super League club Castieford Tigers. Rugby Union Lawrence Dalagio, the England and Wasps captain; has been voted Personality of the Year by the Rugby Winters Club. He is the first Englishman.

Mari Denney, the Cambridge Univer sity centre, is to leave the Allied Dun-bar Premiership club Bristot Denney. 22, has played 59 senior games for Bristol since making his debut in Feb ruary 1994 but has found the distance morn Cambridge Impractical Lewis Capes, son of the former international shotputter Geoff Capes is making the switch from American football to rugby union. Capes 26 yes terday joined the Afried Dunbar

to win the award since Ben Clarke in

Premiership One side Leicester Tigers on a two-year contract from London Monarchs for an undisclosed sum. Monarchs for an undisclosed sum. IRELAND to tarty Bologna, 20 December): K Nowten (5) Mary's College; D Heide (5) Mary's College; R Henderson (Nessen M McCall London Inst), K Magge (Rivers): D Humphreys (London Inst), R Compan Greystnesh K Mood (Parieques, capt), P Pre-lace (Saudura, P Johns (Sanares), M D'Kall-fy (London Inst): D O'Grady (Sala), K Devaon (London Inst): D O'Grady (Sala), K Devaon (London Inst): E Miller (Lacaster), Replace-ments: C D'Shar (London Val), B O'Marra (Cork Constitution), I Fitzpatrick (London Iran): D Ensure (Sale)

Sailing The Eriton Pete Goss is one of four entries to be announced for The Race, a non-stop round the world race scheduled to begin on 31 Oecember 2000. The other three are Loick Peyron, brother of the organiser Bruno. Hank de Velde of the Netherlands and Oscar Konoukhov of Russia. The departure point will be chosen from Lisbon, Barcelone, Marselles and

The Tour de France à le Voile will be raced in Mumm 40s from 1999, giving further boost to the boat's candida to be the Admiral's Cup one-design 40-

Snooker

TODAY'S FIXTURES

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Chieng Mai, Thei) Hen's 78tg; 1 Y Youv (Bul) sneich 1650rg, jert, 2025kg, beld 3927sg; 2 G Gerdev (Bul) 1675, 1973, 385r; 3 W Kosmelu (Pol) 1650, 1875, 3825, Women's 64tg; 1 Chen Yan Cling (Chin) 1000, 190, 2300; 2 Chen Jul, Jern (Jain) 1025, 1225, 2250; 2 N Lewin (Ind) 1000, 1775, 2775,

Weightlifting

Football UEFA CIP Third round second leg: VII. Bochum (2) v Ajax (4) (730) FA UMBRO THOPHY Third qualifying round: Great Harwood Town v Witton Al-bion (745). DION (145); PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division; Asten Vita v Liverpool (70); Backburn Rovers v Nanchester Utd (70); Leeds Utd v Toynmere Rovers (70) (at Hallar Town). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Norwich v Chasea (730).

Basketball CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP Semi-final first leg: Exide London Towers y Re-nault Laccetter Fiders (ED). Ice hockey

GERMAN OPEN (Bingen) Last 18: A Hamilton Exquite J Ferguson (Eng) 5-2 ing the colours, potting yellow he had been 8-5 in front. Hamil-EXPRESS CUP: Newcastle Cobras Cardiff Devils (70) and green, but he carelessly Squash Other sports missed a brown off its spot. CHRYSLER HELIOPOLIS OPEN CHAMPI SWILLIAING: ASA National Winter Cham-pronships (al Shaffield) ONSHIP (Caro, Eg) First round: Lorshe Man, Pay, to 1 Hands (Eng) 8-4 8-12 5-7. O El-ponters, Eg) to 5 Meats (Eng) 12-8 16-10 16-6 Hamilton knocked in the

FOOTBALL

Divisions appear as clubs seem split on future of the League

A club chairman has raised fears that a proposed new First Division "Superleague" could see teams playing each other up to seven times a season. Ion Rodgers reports.

The prospect of supporters getting bored with seeing the same old opposition was yesterday raised by the Colchester chairman, Gordon Parker, in the light of the proposed break-

One plan to change the Foothall League would see a First Division of just 12 teams playing each other four times in League matches, and Parker is concerned that supporters might tire of seeing the same opponents in action.

He said: "Personally, I don't like the idea of playing teams four times a season. And it could be more if you end up drawing the same teams in the League Cup, FA Cup and Auto Windscreens competition.

"With regional draws, conceivably we could end up playing somehody like Cambridge seven times in one season - and that doesn't count replays."

Parker is also worried that the higger clubs will he taking more than their fair fiscal share. With the Premiership having sucked the really serious money out of football, it leaves a described as becoming stale.

much smaller cake for everybody else in the game," he said. "If you damage the roots of a plant too much, it eventually withers. And I think we are in danger of doing that at the

There is going to come a day when the rich men involved in smaller clubs are going to say: 'Enough is enough'. That is a much more serious issue."

Other chairmen, however, are backing the plan. Geoffrey Richmond, the Bradford City chairman, said a First Division "Superleague" of 12 teams from 1999-2000 would be "a tremendous showpiece".

Richmond was a member of the working party which offered various proposals for the future of the leagues below Premiership level. But he added that this was only one of a number of new ideas offered.

This is one of just four we are putting forward," Richmond said yesterday. "We are not recommending one single one. With my Bradford City hat on. I think this is extremely ex-

"It will provide a tremendous showpiece league for the Football League. The member clubs of the new league will mathematically have an outstanding chance of promotion - three

But Richmond denied claims that the new league would be like the Scottish Premier Division, which has been

Midday kick-off ordered for Chelsea v United Cup tie

Chelsea's FA Cup third round as their live presentation on the tie against Manchester United will start at noon at Stamford Bridge following Sky TV's confirmation yesterday that they will show the match live on Sunday, 4 January.

have been in discussion with - the resources of the Metro- he has ever scored. the police since the draw was politan Police and their speheen decided to start the tie between the Cup holders and the Premiership champions at

Police were navious to make sure the game, between rivals who are currently the top two in the League, would start and finish in daylight to assist what is sure to be a testing security and crowd-control

operation. The noon start at Chelsea will also avoid a direct clash for armchair fans with the Everton-Newcastle United tie which has been chosen by ITV

same day, with a 2pm kick-off

With all hut one of London's 10 teams in the Cup drawn at home - the only exception being Second Divi-The Football Association sion Fulham, who visit Spurs cialist football control unit face heing severely stretched

on third-round Saturday. But Wimhledon's match with Wrexham has already been out back to the Sunday, allowing the Dons' Selhurst Park landlords, Crystal Palace, to go ahead with their game against either Sounthorpe or non-League Ilkeston 24 hours

And Tottenham will now meet Fulham at White Hart Lane on Monday 5 January, a match also to he screened live

Premier, where clubs are playing virtually the same teams four times a year every season, there will he six new members of the 'Superleague' every year. You are going to have a fresh division constantly.

"We believe it will be a very exciting product as regards television and the fans will re-

The proposal will be discussed by Football League chairman at a meeting in London today. It still has to go hefore the rest of the league and the results of a vote at an EGM in February will decide if the scheme is to go ahead.

In Scotland, the Celtic striker Darren Jackson found his scoring touch at Aberdeen on Tuesday night, hut then said: "There are no excuses for me

Jackson completed a remarkably swift return from hrain surgery in early September with the second of Celtic's two goals in an assured victory at Pittodrie.

It was his first start since 23 August, when he scored in another 2-0 win, this time at St Johnstone, just before the Uefa Cup return game with Tirol.

But, just before the match on 26 August, Jackson developed a headache. At first it was a gentle throb, but it deteriorated into a pounding migraine, which forced him to seek medical advice. The Scotland forward was told he had hydrocephalus, fluid on the hrain, and he could either he treated or end his

Since the operation, Jackson has chalked up several milestones - returning to training. playing and scoring for the reserves, then appearing as a Celtic substitute.

But on Tuesday night he achieved two amhitions in one match - a full first-team return and, of even greater personal significance, the sweetest goal

Yet today's artival of the Norwegian forward Harald Brattbakk means he faces a challenge to stay in the Celtic side. Jackson insists he welcomes the £2m signing of Brattlakk from Rosenborg

"You need competition for places at a big club like Celtic, where success is expected. It means you have to he at the top of your form every week, hut Harald's record suggests he is a penalty-box player, while I prefer to play deeper.

"It is going to affect me because I'm a striker, but it was a dream return for me. I'm in the - Bill Pierce team and I want to stay there."

Robert Orray (left), of the LA Lakers basketball team, offers support to the banned Latrell Sprewell at a press conference

Barkley's boycott threat over banned Sprewell

National Basketball Association does not reduce its punishment of Latrell Sprewell, the league's top American players could boycott next summer's World Championship or the

league's All-Star Game. "I think I'd have great support for a hoycott," Barkley

Wimhledon's fans were vester-

day given renewed hope that the

ctuh could finally be moving

back home. The club issued a

joint statement with Merton

council, vowing: "We wish to re-

assure the supporters of Wim-

council share a common goal -

to do everything possible to get

council - the local authority gov-

erning the cluh's natural home

area in south London - have

been at loggerbeads for many

cil leaders of doing nothing to

belp them move back to their

former home, while the coun-

cil have insisted that it is not

their responsibility to belp

The club have accused coun-

Wimbledon and Merton

the Dons back to Merton.

Charles Barkley says if the said yesterday. "I've talked three years of his four-year and insisted his career should never had any situation like with several players about it. The league is run by the stars and this is something bigger than all of us.

Sprewell's contract was terminated by the Golden State Warriors last Wednesday, costing him the \$25m (£15.6m) he was to be paid over the final

Home hope for Wimbledon

Wimhledon find a new ground.

tempting to set up a new home

in Dublin - a move opposed by

fans in a series of demonstrations

solution to the problem, the fact

that both sides have at least put

aside their differences to agree

publicly a common goal is a step

don's owner, has met the new

council leader, Mike Brunt,

who has been a fan of the club

for 20 years, to discuss the pos-

sibilines of a new 20,000-ca-

pacity stadium on the site of

Wimbledon greyhound stadium.

the council has given this plan

A feasibility study ordered by

Sam Hammam, Wimble-

at recent games - remains.

hledon FC that the club and the statement contains no specific

forward.

The threat of the Dons at-

But although vesterday's

PJ Carlesimo. The league then lesimo on 1 December. suspended Sprewell for one

club until next December. apologised for his behaviour am a good person and I've

the green light, although Wim-

a bigger venue.

hledon are understood to want

be meeting again to discuss "a

wider study of the borough to

see if we can identify one or

more further sites where the club

might be acceptably located".

derstand the supporters' anxi-

eties and ambitions, and we give

them our word that we are

working together to realise their hopes of returning to Merton.

supporters recognise the enor-

mous spirit of goodwill that now

exists between us all and trust

they will accept that we are do-

ing everything possible to bring

Wimhledon bome."

It is important that the

They added: "We fully un-

However, the two men will

deal, for his attack on the not be ruined after choking Golden State Warriors coach, and threatening to kill the Car-

"I know this conduct is not he signed by another NBA fessional sports. I accept responsibility for what I've overnight. I know I will do a Meanwhile Sprewell, has done," the 27-year-old said, "I

this come up before. I feel 10 years of hard work shouldn't he taken away for one mistake. My career didn't happen year, making him ineligible to acceptable in society and pro-overnight and I don't feel it should he taken away

better job controlling my tem-

mint ablete

takes first step

.......

E 7 - 11 .

TEN Sin.

2" 5" M *

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Initial hlunders by first of presiding officers about Conservative party repre-sentative (10)

Sunday Tunes leaders (4) 10 Coal you got at the end of last month? (5)

11 Runner gives reason after entering English youth hostel (9) 12 Know Glaswegian man's

name (3) 13 Indian mystic American's

seen in Westminster (5)
14 Honesty: one encounters it amongst refined gentry (9)
15 Shrinks, at length? (14)
18 What may appear to be opening remarks? (8,6)
22 Review DA obtains, sug-

gesting some form of torture (9) 24 Dicky loves to do cross-

Police must be satisfied (3) Big drawer containing orchestra's hits and pieces (9)
Past tense required, that's 9
evident (5)

28 Recalled being involved in cricket last season (4) Cartel says there are prob-lems with pollution reducing devices (10) DOWN

Exercises which involve matter raised in newspapers (5-3) Books on railway showing

balance (7)

Expert turning out pedan-tic, to some extent (5) Holidaymaker in French

city, one getting lost, ulti-mately (7)
Overnight flight taken by florid detective (3-3)
Politician linked with Afghans possibly requiring a certain kind of humour? (6-3-5)

(6-3-3)
16 Stars, with agreement from Russians, entering European capital (9)
17 A plea for help about most advisable heat-resistant

material? (8)
19 Air route African runner's taken into Holland, not Switzerland (7) 20 Further story's penned by

French writer (7)

21 Low-tech item you can count on? (6)

23 A ring road traffic acci-

artery (5)

dent leading to main

it seems the wheels are coming off a little too often for the management at Milan. Whereas Best went off the

road in various boudoirs and bars, the multi-million pound in-Meazza stadium are becoming far too familiar with a variety

chester.

المن الاعل

Milan car wreckers sent to Monza The stars of Italy's Serie A had of crash barriers and ditches. losing matches through having been enjoying the lifestyle of the fast-living footballer long before The final straw came when the club's two French mid-

George Best brought his racy fielders were lucky to walk style to the streets of Manaway unburt from accidents in recent weeks. First, Ihrahim Women in high heels and Ba wrote off his Mercedes and high-powered cars have always then Marcel Desailly wrecked gone hand in hand with perhis Ferrari formance on the pitch, but now

cidents of a Milan player's vehicle parting company with the ian striker and World Footballer of the Year, escaped injury two seasons ago after crashing his vestments from the Giuseppe car while returning to his home in France.

a squad weakened by autoroute mishaps rather then groin strains, Milan are planning to send their players on a two-day

course in advanced driving. The task of teaching the Milan speedsters to take their foot off the pedal has fallen to club official and former player Daniele Massaro. His choice of venue for the lessons is the faroad. George Weah, the Liber- mous Monza race track, home of the Italian Formula One Grand Prix.

It remains to be seen how slow Ba and Desailly will become. Hopefully, their pace on Faced with the prospect of the pitch will not be affected.

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